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Inter-Arab Affairs

Tripartite Committee on Lebanon Issues Statement

LD1409194189 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Excerpt] The foreign ministers of the member-countries of the higher Arab tripartite committee in charge of finding a solution to the Lebanese crisis concluded their second and last working session this afternoon at the Jiddah conference palace. The ministers issued at the end of their 2-day proceedings the following statement:

On the basis of the statement issued by the higher Arab tripartite committee on 6 September 1989, the foreign ministers of the three member-countries of the committee met in Jiddah on 13 and 14 September 1989, during which they carried out the required assessment of the situation, and considered making new moves.

The decisions reached concerning resumption of the committee's mission will be submitted to the leaders of the three countries. An official statement by the higher Arab tripartite committee will be issued in the three capitals [Riyadh, Algiers, and Rabat] next Saturday after the leaders' mutual consultations. [passage omitted]

INA Reports on Arab League Press Statement

JN1409140989 Baghdad INA in English 1325 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Tunis, Sept. 14, INA—The Arab League Council in its 92nd session condemned poli-economic and military collaboration between the Iranian regime and the Zionist entity for its grave influence on the Arab security.

In a press statement issued here last night in conclusion of its 92nd session, the Arab League Council called for continuity of exerting further efforts at the regional and international levels to activate the direct Iraq-Iran negotiations under the auspices of the UN secretary general to establish durable and just peace, on the basis of the Security Council Resolution No. 598, as being an integral peace plan, and the August 8,1988 agreement in a manner that secures Iraq's sovereignty and rights especially its right in Shatt al-'Arab, and non-intervention in its domestic affairs.

The council also called for intensifying efforts at various levels for releasing the Iraq-Iran prisoners of war (POWs) in accordance with the UN Resolution No. 598 and Third Geneva Convention.

The council confirmed continuous support for the surging Palestinian uprising inside the occupied Arab territories in implementation of the resolution taken by Casablanca summit conference, expressing deep appreciation on the steadfastness and struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), their sole legitimate representative in confronting the most savage organized Zionist terrorism.

The council warned against perils of the selective accusations unleashed by the U.S. against certain states under pretext of using chemical weapons, calling for coordinating political and media efforts at the American arena to explain the Arab stance which supported the overall prohibition of chemical weapons.

The council also held the U.S. Administration responsible for not deterring Israel for its use of chemical weapons against the Palestinians inside the occupied Arab territories.

The council welcomed the Australian Government's invitation of a number of Arab countries to take part in a conference on chemical weapons prohibition due in Canberra on the 18th instant.

The council assigned the Arab League secretary general with following up the contacts with the European Community (EC) according to basic principles of the joint Arab action and main starting points for the dialogue aiming at developing cooperation with the EC in political, economic and social fields.

The council called for conducting adequate contacts between the Arab League and the African Organization of Unity (AOU), confirming its abidance by supporting the liberation movements in South Africa morally and materially.

The council also stressed on intensifying the efforts to promote the relations between the Arab countries and Latin American states in various political, economic and social domains and the necessity of holding contacts with their governments and the Arab expatriates for enhancing the Arab-Latin ties.

INA correspondent here mentioned that the final act adopted by the 92nd session of the Arab League Council did not refer to the developments the Lebanese crisis was witnessing despite that it dealt with several Arab and international issues.

It is to be recalled that meetings of the Arab League Council began two days ago and attended by the Arab foreign ministers. [sentence as received]

'Abd-al-Majid on Mubarak Plan, Arab League Site

NC1409153889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1111 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Tunis, 14 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has said that Egypt did not reject Shamir's plan and that President Husni Mubarak's 10-point plan involves questions over the handling of elections in the occupied territories.

In a statement published today in the Tunisian newspaper AL-HURRIYAH, 'Abd-al-Majid said that debate is currently going on in Israel over the 10-point plan, hoping that differences in this respect will be resolved. He noted that Egypt is eager to see the Israelis and Palestinians begin dialogue on a clear basis, for this will help further the peace process.

As for the tripartite committee efforts concerning Lebanon, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that it is still too early to predict how much the committee can accomplish. However, he added, we should all cooperate with the committee's current efforts, for the Lebanese crisis should be resolved in the Arab framework and must not be internationalized.

As for the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC], Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that this is a regional constellation with no hostile intentions toward anyone. It is a group open for others to join and it aims at furthering the common interests of member countries, 'Abd-al-Majid asserted. He also emphasized the need for closer cooperation among the Arab Maghreb Union, the ACC, and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

As for the remark which he made in his speech before the Arab League ministerial council meeting to the effect that the Arab League's Tunis headquarters are temporary, 'Abd-al-Majid said that this is not a new Egyptian concept but a fact recorded in the Arab League's official documents. The League's charter clearly states that Cairo is the League's seat, 'Abd-al-Majid noted, adding that Egypt is not pressing this issue.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that the payments due to the League are being discussed by Egyptian and Arab League officials. He noted that Tunis and Egypt will continue to coordinate their positions inside the Arab League and other organizations, including the United Nations, a new session of which is to open late in this month in New York.

MENA Provides Details on Libya-Chad Agreement

NC1309145189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Paris, 13 Sep (MENA)—The Middle East News Agency has learned from high level African diplomatic sources that the recent agreement concluded in Algeria between Chad and Libya was a compromise between the two countries' positions.

These sources added that Libya's position is an optimistic one based on the premise that everything can be solved politically as soon as leaders Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and Hissein Habre meet in Bamaku. The sources added that the two sides have one year to reach a political solution and should they fail to do so, they would then resort to the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

The same sources said that the agreement comprises eight points, including the withdrawal of both countries' forces from the disputed area, rendering this area neutral, and setting up a joint committee to draw up the borders and place the border markers.

Palestinian Affairs

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives 'Arafat, Delegation

LD1409131689 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution [Al-Qadhdhafi] received Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, who arrived in Tripoli yesterday on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

The meeting was attended by brothers Hani al-Hasan, Sayif 'Abd-al-Hamid Abu al-Hul, and Abu al-Tayib, members of the Fatah movement central committee, and by the Palestinian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Depart After Visit

LD1409145289 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli, 14 Sep (JANA)—President Yasir 'Arafat of the state of Palestine and his delegation left Tripoli this afternoon, ending a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. 'Arafat was seen off by Brigadier-General al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and a number of officers from the People's Army.

PLO Executive Committee Meets, Discusses Plan

Rejects Mubarak 10-Point Plan

NC1309174789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee member Sulayman al-Najjab has emphasized that the PLO has rejected the 10-point plan proposed by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak for holding elections in the occupied territories. Al-Najjab disclosed that the decision was made during a meeting held under 'Arafat in Tunis yesterday.

In a statement to Kuwait's newspaper AL-ANBA', al-Najjab maintained that the PLO believes that Mubarak's proposals are incongruous with the peace initiative presented by the Casablanca summit.

Further on Discussion

JN1409200289 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1826 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Under the chairmanship of brother President leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], the PLO Executive Committee met in the Tunisian capital. In that meeting, the PLO Executive Committee reviewed in full the recent developments pertaining to the Palestine question and the situation in our occupied Palestinian territories

in light of the continuation and escalation of our giant popular Palestinian intifadah [uprising] despite the crimes and barbarous acts being perpetrated by the Zionist occupation troops against the unarmed sons of our Palestinian people.

The PLO Executive Committee also discussed the 10 points proposed by Egypt for the holding of elections in our occupied territories as part of a comprehensive peace process in the region.

Issues Statement

JN1409202489 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1930 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Tunis, 14 Sep (INA)—The PLO Executive Committee has called for quick action to put an end to the tragedy of the Lebanese people and to stop the destructive war shaking Lebanon. In a statement issued here today at the end of its 3-day meeting, the PLO Executive Committee reiterated its support for the Arab resolutions calling for a radical solution to the Lebanese crisis and for the efforts being made by the Higher Tripartite Committee to formulate a solution that will guarantee the Lebanese people's freedom, independence, and unity of its territory and institutions.

The PLO Executive Committee denounces the U.S. Administration's disregard of the Palestinian peace initiative adopted by the Arab summit in Casablanca and its concentration on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan aimed at holding elections under the Zionist occupation.

The PLO Executive Committee welcomed the holding of elections after the evacuation of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territory under international supervision. These elections would be part of a comprehensive peace process in the Middle East. The Executive Committee called for applying the solution agreed on by the United States in tackling the Namibian issue.

The PLO Executive Committee called for intensifying Arab moves on all levels to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions and supporting the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the occupied Arab territory by all means.

The PLO Executive Committee expressed readiness to participate in any preparatory steps to convene an international peace conference on the Middle East and to embark on a dialogue with the concerned parties under UN supervision, with the participation of the permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The PLO Executive Committee refused to allow any party—under any circumstances—to bypass the PLO or to make it relinquish the Palestinian peace initiative, which enjoys Arab support.

The PLO Executive Committee affirmed that the popular intifadah and the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territory have aborted all Zionist wagers—despite their repressive and terrorist practices as well as their massive killing, imprisonment, deportation, siege, starvation, and encroachment on the holy places—to peddle the Shamir plan, which has failed to achieve any of its objectives.

The PLO Executive Committee statement says that the continuation of the intifadah consolidates the unity of the Palestinian people and their active forces and militant factions, and enhances their solidarity with the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative, and its political program and initiative declared at the recent Palestine National Council [PNC] session in Algiers.

The Executive Committee hailed Gaza's heroic resistance against the Israeli crimes and policy of imposing blockades and starvation that are being carried out by the occupation forces and armed settlers. The Executive Committee highly valued refusal of Gaza residents to use the magnestic cards, which are aimed at containing the Palestinian struggle.

The PLO Executive Committee stressed the Palestinian people's inherent tremendous energy and ingenious ability to use this energy to contain the Zionist occupiers' schemes, take them by surprise, thwart their calculations, and exacerbate the confusion among their ranks.

In its meeting, the PLO Executive Committee discussed the importance of convening the PLO Central Council at the present stage, which is witnessing an escalation in the confrontation between the Palestinian people and the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied territories.

The PLO Executive Commitee called on the PNC chairmanship to meet around mid-October to discuss the new developments in the Palestinian arena and adopt Palestinian resolutions on them.

In its earlier meetings, the PLO Executive Committee discussed the status of its political move based on its political program, as well as this move's achievements on the Palestinian, Arab, and international levels, and specified the requirements of political action for the next stage.

Hamas Rejects Mubarak Plan, Specifies Activities

JN1409182989 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1640 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement—Hamas—today issued a call saying:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Praise be to Almighty God. No aggression except against the wrongdoers. God's peace and blessings be upon the leader of mujahidin, Muhammad, peace and blessings of God be upon him.

Our heroic Palestinian people: Our victorious intifadah [uprising] is entering its 22d month with ever-increasing vigor and heat despite the massacres, the latest of which is the one carried out in steadfast Nabulus. It is also

continuing despite terrorism and torture, the economic blockade and long-term curfews, and despite the fall of hundreds of martyrs and thousands of wounded and detainees. This prompted Yitzhaq Mordekhay to consider requesting the help of the Air Force. Our people who have foiled all plots are, God willing, capable of foiling what the enemy generals dream of achieving through the use of helicopters and surveillance aircraft which overfly our valiant cities, villages, and camps.

Greetings of appreciation and respect for all the faithful arms which thwart the enemy dreams and plans. Greetings to our workers in the Gaza Strip who are sacrificing their children's daily bread. Greetings to our steadfast, struggling prisoners.

Our steadfast Palestinian people: While affirming its previous strategic stand considering America a full partner in the conflict, the Islamic Resistance Movement announces its rejection of the new Egyptian peace plan.

Our steadfast Palestinian people: Your movement, the Islamic Resistance Movement, presses your hands and calls for the following:

1. Strikes: Hamas warns those who launch suspect rumors about strike days. People are hearing daily about strikes. We consider this a part of the economic warfare being waged by the enemy and its agents against our steadfast people to obstruct their daily affairs. We call on our people to be vigilant and not to go on strike on the days not officially declared as strike days by the statements.
2. Classes: Hamas greets our valiant students—the eagles of the blessed intifadah—who, with their determination to obtain their rights, foil the policy of stultification. Hamas affirms to them that classes do not contradict the intifadah activities. On the contrary, classes strengthen the intifadah activities.
3. Prisons: Hamas affirms that its arm is long and will cut off any hand that harms any of its militant elements in prisons.
4. The media: Hamas call on the world mass media to be objective in reporting events and not to play down the movement's activities.
5. Sunday, 17 September 1989, will be a day of comprehensive strike on the anniversary of Sabra and Shatila massacres.
6. Thursday, 21 September 1989, will be a day of fasting in solidarity with our prisoners who have been imprisoned for 4 months. We beseech Almighty God to end their suffering and the suffering of our steadfast people.
7. The days 28 and 29 September will be days for comprehensive confrontations against the occupation forces and the settlers.
8. Saturday, 30 September 1989, will be a day of comprehensive strike to protest the continuation of contacts with America.
9. The days 3 and 4 October 1989 will be days for Palestinian slogans and flags decorated with: There is no God but Allah.

Let the intifadah continue until victory. God will certainly aid those who aid his cause; for verily, God is full of strength [Koranic verse]. God is great. Praise be to God.

[Signed] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas—Palestine

PFLP-GC Condemns Egypt Plan, Makes Statement

JN1409180589 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] An official spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has issued the following statement:

The PFLP-GC official spokesman has described the proposed Egyptian plan to save the alleged peace process from a dead end as a miserable, exposed plan to cover up terrorist Shamir's plan and as an integral part of the settlement plan which the Zionist, American, and capitulatory Arab and Palestinian circles are trying to propagate and implement.

In the statement issued today, the PFLP-GC official spokesman said: The so-called 10 points included in this plan have one objective—that is, to bypass the blessed intifadah [uprising] in Palestine and to give the Zionist enemy more time to carry out its new continuous, criminal plan aimed at dealing successive blows to this intifadah.

The PFLP-GC official spokesman added: The Egyptian regime's plan enjoys the support of the leadership of deviation and relinquishment under Mr Yasir 'Arafat. The plan comes to embellish the suspect political moves led by this policy based on holding negotiations with the enemy, recognizing its entity, and voluntarily relinquishing our Palestinian people's right to their homeland and territory.

The official spokesman said: The PLO leadership announced its support for this plan because it represents its general relinquishment course throughout the past years, and because it is also in harmony with the stands announced by the PLO officials—in Geneva, Paris, and Algiers—calling for establishing two states in Palestine, declaring a legitimate and open recognition of the Zionist entity, and accepting Resolutions 242 and 338.

The PFLP-GC official spokesman warned that the imperialist and Zionist plot against our Palestinian people and their armed revolution inside and outside Palestine still exists, and utilizes aggressive political and military frameworks to implement all Zionist and American conditions that would entrench the fabricated entity in all Palestine.

The official spokesman called on all revolutionary forces in the Arab homeland and all progressive, pan-Arab regimes to confront this plot, expose all its objectives, and to give more support and aid for our people's

intifadah in Palestine and our revolutionaries outside so that everyone will be able to put an end to this plot and abort its developments.

The official spokesman expressed confidence in the ability of Palestine's revolutionaries to confront the new Egyptian plan and to deal a deadly blow to this plan. This is because the Palestinian blood that nipped the Shamir initiative in the bud can certainly kill any alternative or similar plan.

The PFLP-GC official spokesman condemned what Bassam Abu-Sharif boasted about with regard to his immediate desire to go to Jerusalem or Tel Aviv to discuss the Egyptian plan with the Zionists. The spokesman said: Abu-Sharif only expresses his master's voice. And what he said cannot be looked at from a personal or individual angle. What he uttered is an expression of the overall capitulatory Palestinian course that disregards the intifadah as well as the Palestinian people's ability in the resistance to achieve victory. The spokesman said: Those traitors will not escape the bitter and hard punishment. He is marching in al-Sadat's footsteps and is aware of the fate of Al-Sadat.

Concluding the statement, the PFLP-GC official spokesman said: Armed struggle is the avenue of victory and the blessed intifadah, which continues to attract the world's attention to our people's ability and firmness, will escalate and deepen until the liberation of man and land.

[Signed] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command
[Dated] 14 September 1989

Abu Iyad: Fatah Made No Concessions

PM1409110689 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 11 Sep 89 p 14

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu-Iyad, by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Khashanah] After the success of Fatah's fifth congress, do you expect cadres in Syria to join the legitimate structures? Are there any contacts in that regard?

[Khalaf] Our problem now is how to accommodate them, because they are too numerous. Some 1,800 cadres have left Syria since 1984, and I am confident that if we leave the door open none of them will remain there. Besides, we must ask: Where are the 10 who led the coup against legitimacy and called it an "uprising?" At least seven of them are not involved in political work now.

[Khashanah] The new Revolutionary Council is described as "strong" because it includes many radical faces. Do you not fear, now that the peaceful option has faltered, that one day you will be told: Stop the policy of concessions.

[Khalaf] But we have offered no concessions.

[Khashanah] Let us call them political tactics.

[Khalaf] They are not concessions. We launched a peace initiative based on international legitimacy, every sense of the word. Thanks to that initiative our people supported us and the world as a whole sympathized with our cause. We have even won over Europe to our side. And we would tell those who say that the intifadah [uprising] does not want that political line: We are not mad. If the intifadah were not in favor of that line, it would not have continued for a single day. Incidentally, before I spoke about international legitimacy and before I attended the recent Palestine National Council session in Algiers, I was anxious to consult the young men whom I trust within the leadership of the intifadah, especially from Fatah. If they had not requested that political initiative, it would not have happened. So we do not make concessions; we are leading an initiative. The form of that initiative may give the impression that there are concessions behind it, but that is not the case. The proof of this is that both Israel and the United States know that that is not a concession. They are demanding a real concession, namely, acceptance of the recent U.S. proposals requesting the espousal of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq's Shamir's plan. But when we demand a Palestinian state and confront Israel with two options— either to be part of the region or to prove that it is from outside it—it is a challenge which we present to them.

[Khashanah] During Fatah's congress many people noted that the movement's influence has declined inside [the occupied territories], especially within union organizations. Has the new Central Committee thought about reviving and restoring its leading role?

[Khalaf] I do not like to speak about groups. But Fatah still occupies the forefront in any group comprising Palestinians, both inside and outside.

[Khashanah] But has it lost its leading position in a number of union organizations?

[Khalaf] These organizations are established by factions and consist of their own members. They do not represent all forces. As for people's organizations, Fatah still carries weight there, since selection is based on elections. But let us also say that the fifth congress launched a true uprising within Fatah to coincide with our kinfolk's intifadah inside. The movement restored its struggling face within the PLO. What is pleasing and reassuring is that the other organizations welcomed this transformation and were not displeased with it. I personally sense that happiness on the part's of the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine], the Communist Party, and the Arab Liberation Front, and the Palestine Liberation Front. They are now reexamining their documents and organizational conditions, because their factions are based on the principle of democratic centralism. As for our movement, it has nothing like that. We have chosen the method of broad democracy. Before the congress I

said that Fatah's democracy is very good. This was proved correct. But I hope that it will prevail throughout the Arab world.

[Khashanah] The economic suffering of the people inside probably still receives insufficient attention and, as you know, the fall in the value of the Jordanian dinar is affecting the social and economic conditions of the people in the West Bank. Has the leadership thought about measures to support the people inside in that regard?

[Khalaf] True, the fall in the value of the Jordanian dinar is one of the difficult problems facing us. But we have done all we can to enable our people to remain united inside. With the little Arab aid and the Palestinian aid and all that we possess, we are anxious to help our people find the bread so they can continue their intifadah. The dinar is one part of the problem, especially as many cannot acquire it in the first place, whether its value falls or rises. The new Central Committee is paying attention to all aspects of the economic situation inside. It is also responsible for politics, the international situation, and many other things. But the intifadah dominated every committee, every speech, and every recommendation.

[Khashanah] In view of President 'Arafat's visit to Jordan, will the Palestinian National Fund's deposits be released?

[Khalaf] There is no danger necessitating their release.

[Khashanah] Yes, there is a 3-year old problem...

[Khalaf] The Fund's headquarters was in Amman, but the brothers in Jordan did not approve, then approval was given nearly a month ago.

[Khashanah] Why has the Central Committee not held its meeting in Baghdad, as reported?

[Khalaf] We will set a date for the meeting after the nonaligned summit.

[Khashanah] Will the Politburo be elected at that meeting?

[Khalaf] Maybe. But we may also decide to postpone it until we appoint the remaining three members of the committee and the Revolutionary Council's members from among "those with capabilities." Then we will select the Politburo members.

[Khashanah] Has President 'Arafat finished consulting the Central Committee members on these matters?

[Khalaf] He only consulted them about who should join the Central Committee.

PFLP Denies Mafia Arms Trafficking Connection

NC1409124789 Paris AFP in English 1234 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Damascus, Sept 14 (AFP)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine on Thursday denied Italian police allegations that it was involved in an arms trafficking network with the Mafia.

A spokesman for the PFLP here said the guerrilla group, headed by George Habash, "is not implicated in this affair of arms trafficking and this information is merely a way of undermining the PFLP."

Italian police said in Rome on Wednesday that they had uncovered a network run by the N'Dranghetta, a branch of the mafia based in Calabria, southern Italy, to channel arms to the PFLP. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Bendjedid Receives 2d Phone Call From Al-Asad

LD1409231189 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] President of the Republic Chadli Bendjedid today, Thursday, received a telephone call—the second in 24 hours—from Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic.

It is believed that the conversation may have concerned the situation in the Middle East and the mission of the 3-man committee.

Hamrouche: Government To Include Non-FLN

PM1409154889 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Sep 89 pp 1-2

[Qasiy Salih al-Darwish report: "Algerian Prime Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: My First Task To Select Ministers Who Support Reforms"]

[Excerpts] Paris, Algiers, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Prime Minister Mouloud Hamrouche, who is entrusted with forming the new government in Algeria, has announced that his first task is to seek a group which believes in political and economic reforms and who are also familiar with economic matters in order to resolve the severe economic problems now facing Algeria. In an exclusive telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Algeria he said that the new government is a National Liberation Front [FLN] government, though it will include ministers who are not members of the Front.

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Hamrouche added that he will complete the formation of his government within the next 3-4 days and the cabinet is most likely to be announced early next week. [passage omitted]

Hamrouche affirmed that work within the framework of reforms and the main guidelines could lead to a reduction of the government's size to make it more harmonious and effective.

Answering a question on whether he will form an FLN government, he said: Yes. The first thing I did was to hold a preliminary working session with the FLN secretary general and the permanent secretaries.

He added: The government is an FLN government, but that does not mean that it will be of one particular tendency alone, since the FLN still includes various tendencies and inclinations.

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT whether this means that the next government will include members from outside the Front, he said: If you mean individuals who are not card-carrying members, it will indeed include ministers who do not carry the Front's membership card. [passage omitted]

Renewal Party Issues Communique on Democracy

LD1309222289 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] The Party of Algerian Renewal [PRA] says in a communique that until last week the process of establishing democracy in the country saw an unexplained slow development and an intolerable hindrance by those in power whom they sought to overthrow in October, 1988. The critical situation in the country at the moment calls for radical decisions. Aware of all these dangerous aspects, the PRA appeals to the president—the only one who can give impulse to the democratic process—to complete the process he started, in order to calm the political climate and bring confidence to civil society. The democratic camp should take the initiative, otherwise the extremists will have the last word.

Islamic Salvation Front Party Legalized

LD1509104489 Paris International Service in French 0630 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Excerpt] A first for Algeria: an Islamic party was granted legal status yesterday. The authorities have just officially recognized the Islamic Salvation Front, a party which claims 3 million members. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Cited on Support for Palestinians

PM1409152189 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Sep 89 p 1

[Zaki Musa Shihab report: "Mubarak Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Belgrade: 'We Have Worked, and We Are Working, To Make 'Arafat's New York Visit a Success'"]

[Excerpt] Belgrade, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has announced that the objective of his upcoming visit to the United States is to raise the problems facing the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. He said that he will certainly broach the Arab-Israeli conflict question and ways of achieving a permanent solution that would give the Palestinian people their right to self-determination and independence.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Belgrade, where he is taking part in the nonaligned summit, President Mubarak said that Egypt supports the PLO in all the steps and orientations it has announced, and that Egypt supports it constantly in many fields.

Answering a question about the visit which Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat intends to pay to New York, he said: That visit is one of the issues on which we have been and still are working, to make it a success.

On the Palestinian intifadah in the occupied territories, President Mubarak said that its continuation for such a long period of time is clear evidence of the Palestinian people's determination to win their freedom and get rid of the occupation.

He added that Israel's policy in that regard needs to be revised to take account of all that is happening.

On the situation in Lebanon President Mubarak said that the Arab tripartite committee will resume its activities at the request of various Arab parties.

He added: We hope that the committee will arrive at a satisfactory result regarding political reform, thus paving the way for the formation of a government in Lebanon and for the election of a head of state who can restore the country's legitimacy and restore its institutional health. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid Comments on 10-Point Plan

JN1409134689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Doha, 14 Sep (WAKH)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has reiterated his country's firm concern to resolve the Lebanese problem peacefully as well as to support the Arab tripartite committee entrusted with tackling this problem. In a statement to the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ published today, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his hope that the efforts of the committee will succeed in finding the appropriate solution to the crisis in Lebanon.

'Abd-al-Majid said: The tripartite committee should resume what it began despite the fact that it has reached a dead end. The committee must be given time to realize its objectives, warning against the danger of internationalizing the problem. He called on all parties to the Lebanese problem to be aware of the dangers of the current situation in Lebanon.

On Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's recent plan for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid affirmed that Washington supports the plan's 10 points. He noted the U.S. need to make additional efforts to embark on a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to give momentum to the regional peace process.

The Egyptian minister noted that the recent Egyptian move on peace in the Middle East completes the Palestine National Council resolutions made at its recent meeting in Algiers. The move is also based on the American president's announcement at the time of President Mubarak's Washington visit last April regarding the need to end Israeli occupation of Arab territory, the principle of land in exchange for peace, and guaranteeing the Palestinian people's political rights.

'Abd-al-Majid Returns From Arab League Meeting

Comments on Proceedings

NC1409215489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned to Cairo from Tunis this evening, following a 4-day visit during which he led the Egyptian delegation to the meetings of the Arab League Council, which concluded last night.

In an arrival statement, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said Egypt's presence at the meetings of the Arab League Council for the first time had been given a warm welcome, and there was a general feeling of relief among the member states. He added that these countries voiced support for Egypt's presence in their warm speeches. [passage omitted]

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid noted that all boycotts which had been imposed on Egypt have been lifted.

Replying to a question on President Mubarak's 10-point plan for resolving the Palestinian issue, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid stated that the initiative was widely welcomed everywhere, adding that the Arab and Tunisian press have higlighted it. He stressed that the initiative is new proof that Egypt is still interested in resolving the Palestinian issue and that President Mubarak is giving his full attention to it.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid added: In this context, I met with Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis to exchange views and coordinate stands as usual.

Reacts to Shamir's Election Plan

NC1509111089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0951 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Tunis, 15 Sep (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has affirmed that President Husni Mubarak has not accepted some points in Shamir's election plan. He noted that President Mubarak believes that the principle of elections is unassailable and is a democratic principle which we must accept.

In an interview with the Tunisian newspaper AL-SABAH, 'Abd-al-Majid said: We must know where we are going. This is why President Mubarak announced his 10 points.

'Abd-al-Majid noted that the issue was raised at the Arab League Council meeting in Tunis. He added that the issue is not new but is a result of numerous contacts with all parties over a period of 4 months.

Noting that there are differences and divisions inside Israel over the Egyptian proposals, and that the United States supports them, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said: We are waiting for an Israeli response to the questions.

He explained that the Egyptian move was designed to avoid stagnation and to raise the issue on the international level. He emphasized that the issue is not one of elections for their own sake because the Palestinian voter must know when he casts his vote where he is going and consequently that it is he who will determine that.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab League Council did not discuss the Lebanese situation because we believed that the issue must be left to the Tripartite Committee and it was not right for the foreign ministers to meet and adopt a resolution on an issue which an Arab summit instructed a special committee to handle.

Concerning the restoration of the Arab League Headquarters to Cairo, he said the Arab League charter states that Cairo is the permanent headquarters and when the Arab League Secretariat was established here in Tunis in 1979, it was then clearly stated that this was going to be a temporary headquarters. He noted, however, that Egypt is not currently raising this issue.

The Egyptian foreign minister stressed that Egyptian-Libyan relations are passing through a new stage, explaining that it is also a natural stage between two fraternal and neighborly people who are linked by joint traditions and religious ties. He announced: We have started to sense a measure of ease between the two people and all this might be translated into diplomatic relations.

Regarding the relations with Syria, he said that the relationship between President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is strong because they had been comrades at arms and are joined by a spirit of friendship. The meetings between the two presidents in Casablanca were an opportunity for getting together. He noted that these meetings were followed by an exchange of delegations by the two countries which resulted in a mutual atmosphere of satisfaction on the official level. He said this proves that a good relationship exits between the two sides.

Foreign Minister Interviewed at Belgrade Summit

PM1509091089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Sep 89 p 2

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Zaki Shihab in Belgrade; date not given]

[Text] [Shihab] How would you assess the ninth nonaligned summit's proceedings and results?

['Abd-al-Majid] The conference assumed a new line compared with previous conferences. This, because the issues were dealt with in a practical way and the agenda concentrated on economic aspects. And there was a desire to avoid confrontation and try to reach acceptable formulas in many resolutions which prompted sharp disputes in the past. The methodology which the states are trying to pursue was reflected in fewer speeches, since some states do not deliver speeches now but distribute written statements instead. Furthermore, the technical committee completed their work quickly. One of the new aspects of the conference was its dealing with issues not previously discussed, such as those of environment, drugs, and childhood—all of which are new to the movement's work.

[Shihab] President Husni Mubarak intends to visit the United States. What will he bring with him?

['Abd-al-Majid] We know the major U.S. role in the peace process and consider the United States a partner in it. President Mubarak's desire to achieve peace is known to everyone. We consider his meeting with U.S. President George Bush a useful opportunity. It will deal with the Palestinian people's problems and rights, in addition to bilateral issues.

The President will also deliver his speech at the United Nations on behalf of the OAU. There will be a chance to meet with a number of leaders in order to highlight Egyptian interests, the Egyptian role in the peace process, stability, and important economic issues. This, in addition to the debt issue and the North-South dialogue, that is, the quadripartite initiative in which the Venezuelan, Senegalese, and Indian leaders will participate together with President Mubarak.

[Shihab] How do you view the results which the Arab tripartite committee could achieve now that it has resumed its activities?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Arab tripartite committee enjoys Egypt's full support. Its activities during the first stage constitute an endeavor that should not mark the end of the committee's work. I am pleased that the committee is to meet in Jeddah and look into the possibility of resuming its work to ensure all the parties' commitment to the Casablanca summit, which called for respect for Lebanon's sovereignty, unity, independence, and right to live in peace and security like the other peoples of the world.

[Shihab] What role is Egypt playing in 'Arafat's UN visit?

['Abd-al-Majid] I do not know whether it has been decided, but we hope that it does go ahead and that brother Abu-'Ammar will address the United Nations. What I do know is that I have not heard of a U.S. refusal to grant the Palestinian leader a visa.

[Shihab] How do you view ways of reviving the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue now that it has reached an impasse?

['Abd-al-Majid] The U.S.-Palestinian dialogue is continuing, and we always urge its continuation, even if it is moving slowly or its results are not as tangible as we would like. The dialogue started last December, that is, less than a year ago. Before that there was complete estrangement between the two sides.

My view is that we must, first, preserve it, give things time, and not rush matters. We also believe that maintaining the dialogue will bring benefits and achieve results, especially at a time when the world as a whole is tending toward the language of dialogue.

We in Egypt insist that the dialogue must continue and always urge the United States to continue it. What was said recently about the intention to stop the dialogue was untrue. Nevertheless, we want it to broach the essence of the issues.

[Shihab] Do you not believe that the U.S. adoption of Shamir's plan negates its role as a mediator?

['Abd-al-Majid] There are reservations about the Shamir plan. But the elections are an acceptable idea and not to be rejected. It is something desired and democratic. Egypt put 10 questions to Israel, asking for a clarification which we still have not received. They concern the atmosphere for elections, their impartiality, and the results expected from them. All this is included in our calculations.

[Shihab] Relations between Syria and Egypt still have not entered the early stage of normalization, and no meetings were held on the sidelines of the [nonaligned summit's] meetings.

['Abd-al-Majid] True, no meetings were held on the sidelines of the nonaligned summit, but we did shake hands with the Syrian foreign minister.

[Shihab] When will diplomatic relations be restored between the two countries?

['Abd-al-Majid] The subject is not being raised at present but I hope it will be raised at the right time.

[Shihab] There are reports that the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen is seeking to join the Arab Cooperation Council.

['Abd-al-Majid] No. That matter has not been raised.

[Shihab] In view of the UN secretary general's consultations with the two parties to the Iraq-Iran war, do you expect any progress in the talks between the two sides?

['Abd-al-Majid] Yes. The secretary general's efforts are reconciliation efforts which we hope will achieve the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

PLO Executive Committee Member in Cairo 14 Sep

NC1409215789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee, arrived in Cairo from Tunis this evening on a visit which will last for several days.

The visit is part of the continued coordination between Egypt and the PLO, particularly now after President Husni Mubarak presented his 10-point initiative to resolve the Palestinian issue.

Police Commanders Conference To Open in Cairo

Syrian Interior Official Arrives

NC1409175989 Cairo MENA in English 1628 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, Sep 14 (MENA)—Syrian Assistant Interior Minister Major-General Ahmad Sa'id Salih, arrived here this evening at the head of a delegation to attend the conference of Arab police commanders, due to be held here from September 16 through 18.

Minister of Interior Zaki Badr will inaugurate the conference.

Ministers Council Official Arrives

NC1409220089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2135 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Dr Akram Nash'at, secretary general of the Arab Interior Ministers Council, arrived in Cairo this evening on a visit. He will attend the 14th conference of Arab police commissioners which will begin 16 September and last for 3 days. [passage omitted]

Dr Nash'at stated that the conference will discuss a number of important security issues, such as facing up to terrorist organizations and sabotage operations. It will also address updating police work in fighting crime and planning action to fight troublemakers at sports events. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Minister Heads Visiting Delegation

Signs Trade Protocol

NC1409180589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1546 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, and Dr Faruq al-Bishri, Sudan's minister of trade, cooperation, and supply, today signed a protocol for commercial exchange between their countries from 1989 to 1990. The protocol projects a volume of trade totaling 322 million accounting dollars for that year, which is 107 million accounting dollars or 50 percent higher than the 1988-89 volume of trade, which stood at 215 million accounting dollars. [passage omitted]

The two countries also signed an equal trade agreement by which they are to exchange $40 million worth of goods, mostly Egyptian medicines and rice and Sudanese sesame and corn.

The Joint Egyptian-Sudanese commercial committee will meet in 3 months in Khartoum to follow up on progress in bilateral trade.

Ends 'Week-Long' Visit

NC1509091089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0614 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 15 Sep(MENA)—Dr Faruq al-Bishri, Sudanese minister of trade, cooperation, and supply, left Cairo for Sudan early today following a week-long visit to Egypt. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Finance Minister Arrives for Visit

NC1509112289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Dr Sayyid 'Ali Zaki, Sudanese minister of finance and national economy, arrived in Cairo at noon today for a 2-day visit to Egypt.

Egyptian Finance Minister Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz met the Sudanese Minister at the airport.

Rwandan Foreign Minister Concludes Visit

NC1509092289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0612 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 15 Sep (MENA)—Casimir Bizimungu, Rwandan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, left Cairo early this morning following a week-long visit to Egypt.

During his visit, Bizimungu signed an agreement to establish an Egyptian-Rwandan higher joint committee. He also signed an executive agreement on cultural and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Israeli Envoy Leaves Cairo After Working Visit

NC1509063689 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 14 Sep (MENA)—Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni left Cairo for Israel to return to work after a brief 1-day working visit.

Before departing, Ambassador Basyuni said he had reported to Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, on developments in Israel, the Israeli stand on President Mubarak's 10-point plan, and the approach to initiating a dialogue to establish peace in the Middle East.

Ambassador Basyuni noted that the Israeli Labor Party had agreed on the 10 points in general, but the Likud has not yet determined its stand. [passage omitted]

FRG To Extend DM103-Million Loan, Grant

JN1409181289 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 13 Sep 89 p 6

[By Faruq 'Abd-al-'Aziz]

[Text] The FRG has agreed to extend to Egypt a DM103 million loan repayable over a 40-year period to update four electric power plants at a less than 1 percent interest. DM5 million of the loan is a grant.

Minister of Electricity and Energy Eng Mahir Abazah said DM76 million will go to executing the first stage of updating the Aswan Dam old electric power station and 27 million to restoring the power stations of Damanhur, southern Cairo, and old Asyut.

This emerged yesterday after a meeting of experts of Egypt Electricity Authority chaired by its president, Engineer al-Sa'id 'Isa, and experts from the German Reconstruction Bank.

Engineer Abazah indicated that the joint Egypt-FRG Committee for Economic Cooperation has agreed that DM97 million be set aside from the cooperation protocol for projected replacement and modernization of energy production stations.

Thai Foreign Ministry Official Holds Trade Talks

BK1509013989 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 Sep 89 p 14

[Text] Deputy Foreign Minister Praphat Limpaphan held talks with Egyptian Economy and Trade Minister Dr Yusri Mustafa as well as leading Egyptian businessmen on Tuesday [12 September] to explore the possibilities for expanding trade and economic cooperation between the two countries during the second day of his current visit to Egypt.

Praphat said Thai-Egyptian trade needs to be quickly developed as there is great potential for expansion in terms of value and volume. However, Egypt still maintains a list of some 300 trade items banned from entering the country without licences. Cairo says that this "prohibitive" list is required in order to protect its infantile industries, and in part due to its currency shortages.

During his talks with the Egyptian economy minister, Praphat relayed Thailand's need for such materials as cement, steel bars, aluminium and precious stones. He also expressed interest in joint ventures or investments in the construction, textile, food canning, and sugar industries.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian business community expressed their concern over the lack of communication between the two sides. In response, the Thai official has proposed that there be more exchanges of visits by businessmen, starting with the convening of the first joint commission meeting scheduled for January. Also, participation in trade exhibitions could further establish bilateral links.

Most importantly, both sides must constantly keep the other informed of their respective needs for imports.

During the talks, an Egyptian businessman expressed his interest in a joint venture for the production of the "tuk-tuk" [three-wheeled vehicle] cars in Egypt.

Libya

Chadian Information Minister Arrives in Tripoli

LD1409193189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1805 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli 14 Sep (JANA)—Chadian Information Minister Adoum Moussa Seif and an accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening.

Upon arrival, the Chadian minister made a statement to JANA in which he said that with the tide of the Bamako meeting between the brother leader of the revolution and President Hissein Habre of Chad, and the recent signing of the Algiers agreement, the two countries are now moving on the correct path to strengthen understanding between them.

The Chadian minister expressed his pleasure at visiting the Jamahiriyah, stressing that this visit is his second in a short time, as he had the honor of attending the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the 1 September Revolution. He also said that his visit comes in the framework of reinforcing the ties of friendship and understanding between the two neighboring countries.

The delegation accompanying the Chadian information minister consisted of Bichara Drissi Haqqar, member of the executive bureau of the National Union Party for Independence; Ramadan Borma, adviser for international relations to the presidency of the Republic; Dounou Hongar, member of the National Union Party for Independence, and chairman of the University of Chad; and Ahmad Allam-Mi, Chadian ambassador to France.

Turkish State Minister Attends Talks in Tripoli

LD1309130189 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1150 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli 13 Sep, JANA—The brother secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation conferred in Tripoli this morning with Turkish Minister of State Isin Celebi, who is visiting the Great Jamahiriyah to take part in the Libyan Arab-Turkish joint committee proceedings. The meeting, which was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee for Formation and Vocational Training and the Turkish ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah, dealt with means of bolstering relations between the two friendly countries.

Romanian Planning Officials Discuss Cooperation

LD0909172889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1539 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Bucharest, al-Fatih [September] 9, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The president of the State Council for Planning in Romania yesterday received the secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning, who is attending the joint Libyan Arab-Romanian Committee which began its proceedings in Bucharest on Thursday.

The meeting discussed ways to bolster and develop cooperation between the Great Jamahiriyah and Romania.

On the other hand, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Planning met on Thursday with the Romanian construction minister.

Commentator Defends Al-Qadhdhafi's NAM Speech

LD1309133989 Tripoli JANA in Arabic
1110 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Tripoli, 13 Sep (JANA)—In a political program broadcast on French television's Channel 5 on Tuesday [12 Sep], Jean Kahn said that the statements by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the ninth Nonaligned Movement [NAM] summit held recently in Belgrade were among the strongest anti-Jewish Arab statements made because he had called for annihilating the Jews and transporting them to Alsace-Lorraine.

JANA's international affairs editor commented on this, and said:

The Jewish community official Jean Kahn is a French Jew who lives in Paris and does not care about the interests of the Jews who were deceived by the colonialist Zionist movement which pushed them to colonize a land which does not belong to them. They came to that land as invaders and colonialists from a number of countries around the world. They belong to other nationalities and races from nations well known in human history, and they represent tribal communities, the most important of which are the (?Kharaz) and Ashkenazim group. They have well known European origins. This is a fact known to historians and anthropologists, but international Zionism, by its anti-human and anti-Semetic course, tried to blur it. By using various methods, Zionism changed the course of human history related to the cultural and national basic elements of the peoples.

The international affairs editor added: Anyone who reviews the history of the Zionist movement will find these falsifications clear in the chain of Talmud myths, overflowing with hatred of the human race and describing the other societies as vagabonds—"gouim."

He said that when the French Jewish community official spoke in this way, he did not really care about rescuing

the invading Jews from the death and ruin which surrounds them in occupied Palestine, especially as the Palestinian Arab people had risen in their greatest uprising though the popular revolution led by an angry generation. Through their intellect and by way of their struggle, the Palestinian Arab people have understood that the only way is through escalating the popular revolution. They are progressing toward developing their revolutionary actions, and everyday the nooses are getting tighter around the necks of the Zionists in occupied Palestine and will never release them unless they get out of Palestine and return to their original countries.

Concluding his commentary, JANA's international affairs editor stressed that "the only human solution which guarantees the lives of the Jews is through the submissions of the brother leader of the revolution at the NAM summit held recently in Belgrade."

Mauritania

ICO Secretary General Arrives for Visit

AB1209115789 Paris AFP in French 2142 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Nouakchott, 11 Sep (AFP)—Mr Hamid al-Gabid, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, ICO, based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, yesterday arrived in Nouakchott, Radio Mauritania has announced. Carrying a "message of goodwill and peace," Mr Hamid al-Gabid, who is expected to meet with Mauritanian Head of State Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed, will proceed to Dakar as part of a mediation by the ICO between Mauritania and Senegal, which broke diplomatic ties last month following the incidents in April which left several hundreds dead. Observers recall that another mediation by Egyptian Head of State Husni Mubarak, current OAU chairman, is under way.

Makes Statement, Departs

AB1309181289 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Mr Hamid al-Gabid, the secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], left Nouakchott this morning at the end of a few days visit to Mauritania. Mr Al-Gabid, who was accompanied by his deputy Mr Madin Marouf, was seen off at departure by a delegation comprising, among others, Major Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba, the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Mr (Melainin Ould Moktar Neis), ambassador director of international organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation.

Before his departure, the ICO secretary general stated that he was satisfied with his mission to Mauritania. He then thanked the Mauritanian authorities, especially, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation [CMSN] and head of state. Mr al-Gabid further stated that he was able to get a great deal of information that gave him a better knowledge of the file on the conflict between Mauritania and Senegal. The ICO secretary general also pointed out that his organization is not undertaking a mediation between the two countries, but that the ICO will make its modest contribution toward the settlement of this conflict by supplementing the efforts already made by the OAU.

Yesterday, Mr Hamid al-Gabid visited the camp housing our nationals repatriated from Senegal. Mr Hamid al-Gabid got information on the situation and living conditions of our nationals in this camp.

Morocco

King Hassan Issues Statement on Hunger Strikers

LD1309225489 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Excerpt] A statement of truth by the government of His Majesty King Hassan II: Measures have been taken recently in favor of the detainees who have been on a hunger strike for a while. The government of his majesty is anxious to give the following clarifications to remove any ambiguity.

Contrary to the raised allegations, the detainees on strike are not at all political detainees. The matter is, however, related to common law detainees who were indicted for violent acts that harmed public security in a number of regions of the kingdom.

The applied procedure that led to their indictment respected all the stipulations of the law. All the detainees consequently had the right to choose their lawyers. The courts that passed sentences against them are common law courts. Investigation with them was carried out from the beginning to the end overtly and in conformity with the laws existing to this effect.

The government of his majesty, while giving these clarifications, considers from now on that any endeavor related to this issue will be considered interference in the internal affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco. [passage omitted]

Niger Prime Minister Begins 4-Day Visit

AB1209130789 Niamey Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Prime Minister Mamane Oumarou arrived in Rabat yesterday afternoon for a 4-day official visit to Morocco. On his arrival, he was welcomed by Dr Azzedine Laraki, prime minister of His Majesty King Hassan II. In a statement to Moroccan reporters, the prime minister hinted that he bore a message from the chairman of the Higher Council of National Orientation and head of state, General Ali Saibou, for his majesty the king, and added that his visit is part of the excellent relations maintained by our two countries.

The program of the visit envisages bilateral discussions followed by visits to Casablanca and (?Fes).

Sudan

Al-Bashir Aims for Consensus on Main Problems

PM1409152989 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Sep 89 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Lieutenant General Al-Bashir Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Dialogue With Al-Mahdi and No Contacts With Numayri"]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, Belgrade, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Sudanese Government yesterday sent an official invitation to the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM], which is waging the war in the south, to attend and participate in a national dialogue conference to be held in Khartoum the day after tomorrow. At the same time Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Revolution Command Council [RCC] will proceed with negotiations with the Garang movement on that basis of that conference's recommendations.

Lt Gen al-Bashir told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's Belgrade correspondent that the Sudanese RCC will move toward the Garang movement after Saturday's conference, which he said is being held in order to unite the views of all the currents in Sudan over a possible formula to solve the problem of the south.

He added that the RCC is making a move to unite the internal front vis-a-vis the problem of the south, and that the national dialogue committee represents all political inclinations in Sudan as well as influential and important circles. The objective is to draw up the government's and the Sudanese people's overview of a solution to these problems.

Lt Gen al-Bashir denied the existence of any contacts with the political party leaders imprisoned in Kubar prison. He said that the investigation committees are carrying out their work, and that those who are shown to have committed any crime will be brought to trial, while the innocent will be released and returned home.

He added that he did not meet with the detained former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, nor did he read the letter, "because I have listened to him too much over the past 4 years."

In discussing his views for future political conditions in Sudan, Lt Gen al-Bashir said: "We are working to reestablish the state by laying the foundations for the people's participation in power. We have a political committee under the military council. It is meeting with many political leaderships, except that of the former party leadership. It is also meeting with media and union leaders with a view to arriving at the final form of participation."

He stressed that the parties would never return in their previous form.

The Sudanese RCC chairman also denied that any contacts had been made with former President Ja'far Numayri, adding that "we have not discussed the subject, either in the government or in the RCC." [passage omitted]

Appointments to Peace Committee Announced

EA1209223889 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Subsequent to Decree Number 73 of 1989, Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], has issued a decree appointing the following as members of the steering committee of the national dialogue on peace issues.

They are: Lieutenant General Makki Hasan Abbo, retired; Prof al-Amin Hamudah; 'Uthman Ibrahim Tawil; Father Nereo Lope; Gajuk Wurnyang; Hilary Paulo Logali; Al-Sadiq Jubarah; 'Abd al-Jalil Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil; Muhammad 'Uthman Khalifah; Muhammad 'Uthman Jamma; Hasan Muhammad Ali; Yusuf Abu Shammah; Father al-Rahman al-Bashir; Prof Muhammad Hashim Awad; Lawrence Mama Sa'id; Gabriel Mathang Rok; Retired Brigadier Ahmad 'Abd al-Qadir Arbab; Dr Khadijah Karrar; Ahmad Abidin; Retired Major General Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir; and Mr Ahmad Sa'id 'Umar.

Peace Committee States Aims of National Dialogue

EA1409102989 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Joseph Lagu, deputy chairman of the steering committee of the national dialogue on peace issues, today said that the national dialogue conference had two aims. The first of these was to [word indistinct] the government on all national issues through dialogue, thus enabling the government to evaluate the situation and establish a base for peace talks with Garang's movement. The second was for this conference to prepare a unified national opinion to which the government could refer during negotiations. He stated that the conference would now discuss a suitable formula to determine the nature of government in Sudan, and that the conference would adopt a unified resolution in this respect.

Peace Committee Members Meet Ethiopian Envoy

EA1409212089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, National Salvation Revolution Command Council

[NSRCC] member and chairman of the steering committees of the national dialogue on peace, received this afternoon in his office at Friendship Hall, the Ethiopian ambasador to Khartoum. Also present was Lieutenant General Joseph Lagu, retired, deputy chairman of the committee.

The ambassador praised the efforts of the revolution to achieve peace in Sudan, stressing that dialogue was the way in which to solve such problems.

Lt Gen Joseph Lagu expressed his happiness at attending the meeting and the discussion centered on mutual concerns. He also stressed that peace in Sudan and Ethiopia [words indistinct] in the two countries. He added that Sudan and Ethiopia would continue to work for the realization of peace in their countries.

NSRCC Chairman Receives Chadian Ambassador

EA1209224889 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Sep (SUNA)—Lieutenant General al-Bashir has confirmed Sudan's eagerness for stable conditions in Chad, adding that this eagerness emanates from Sudan's complete belief that the security, stability, and safety of Chad is part of the security, stability, and safety of Sudan. This was said when Lt Gen 'Umar received here today the credentials of Mr Mawlq Sa'id [name as received] as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Chad to Sudan.

In a speech on this occasion, Lt Gen al-Bashir said that the revolution had, since its outbreak, paid special attention to the rebuilding of bridges between Sudan and its neighbors. He said the revolution also had pursued a policy aimed at correcting and consolidating relations with its neighbors and brothers. He explained that the improvement and consolidation of relations with Chad was among the priorities of the revolution's policy. He said that by mobilizing resources that had been squandered in the war and using them for development and economic revitalization in Chad, the stability of the region would be strengthened. Lt Gen al-Bashir confirmed his government's readiness to do all in its power to participate in the achievement of this noble aim. He said the revolution had pursued a clear-cut foreign policy based on a clear commitment to international charters. He explained that these guidelines, bases, and principles constituted the basic tenets of Sudan's foreign policy in its dealing with all its brothers and friends on the bases of cooperation, understanding, and mutual trust.

The new Chadian ambassador emphasized the [word indistinct] relations between the two countries. He said that their firm relations were entrenched by eternal links and that they could be strengthened. He added that the restoration of relations between Chad and Libya and the signing of an agreement between them had entrenched the pillars of peace between the two countries. He also affirmed that his country's government would spare no effort in working for a just and final peace between the two countries.

Al-Bashir Meets Clerics, Released Detainees

EA1309114589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], met in his office in the Republican Palace at noon today a Sudanese Episcopal Church delegation led by Archbishop Gabriel, archbishop of Bahr al-Ghazal.

Archbishop Gabriel stated that the meeting touched on the issue of peace in the country and the importance of concerted efforts by all the sons of Sudan to achieve it. His excellency stressed the importance of peace and his support for the efforts exerted to achieve it. He added that the meeting also touched on the problems facing the southern regions, particularly with regard to the delivery of food.

Lt Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, in the presence of Air Colonel Faysal Madani, member of the NSRCC and political supervisor of Kurdufan Region, also met detainees from south Kurdufan, in Kaduqli area, who were recently released. Engineer 'Uthman Abdullah, who was a member of the delegation, said that they conveyed to his excellency their thanks to the revolution for releasing them and pledged their support for it. He confirmed their readiness and desire to participate in rebuilding the homeland.

The delegation also praised the revolution's policy on the question of peace because it would provide the basis for Sudan's recovery from its current problems. It is worth mentioning that these detainees were detained during the defunct party era on a charge of undermining the constitution and that they were released by decree of the NSRCC.

Sudan, Uganda Ministerial Committee Communique

EA1209222089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] The final communique of the third session of the joint Sudanese-Uugandan ministerial committee has been issued. The Sudanese delegation to the meeting was led by Brigadier Faysal Ali Abu Salih, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] and interior minister. Here is the text of the communique:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful—the final communique on the third session of the joint Sudanese-Ugandan ministerial committee.

In response to an invitation from the Ugandan Government and in accordance with the decisions of the permanent ministerial committee for cooperation between

Sudan and Uganda, the third session of the joint ministerial committee was held in Kampala from 6 to 8 September 1989.

The Sudanese delegation was led by Brigadier Faysal Ali Abu Salih, member of the NSRCC and interior minister. The delegation included His Excellency Major General Alison Manana Magaya, governor of Equatoria Region, in addition to a number of senior officials from the security organizations and the government.

The Ugandan side was led by Mr Ibrahim Mukiibi, the interior minister. The delegation included Brigadier Moses Ali, minister of youth, culture, and sports; Mr Daniel Omara Atubo, minister of state for foreign affairs and regional affairs; Mr Charles Luwum Alai, deputy minister of commerce in charge of barter trade; and Mr Israel Kayonde, deputy minister of commerce, in addition to senior officials of the Ugandan Government.

The joint committee discussed a number of bilateral issues, including security, trade, transport and communications, refugees, customs cooperation, cultural cooperation, and the combating of human and animal diseases along their border.

In the field of security, the two sides stressed the need for periodic meetings and the formation of follow-up organizations for the implementation of recommendations from the two sides.

On refugees, the two sides expressed their satisfaction at the experiment of repatriating Ugandan refugees from Sudan, which had been completed successfully thanks to the two countries' joint efforts. The two sides confirmed that there were no longer any Ugandan refugees in Sudan. The two sides confirmed that the Sudanese refugees in Uganda had been settled in an area about 50 miles from the common border, in accordance with the recommendations of the joint committee during its last session.

In the field of trade, the two sides agreed to speed up the adoption of the measures necessary to achieve customs cooperation on the basis of the customs cooperation agreement signed by the two countries. The two sides agreed to renew the trade protocol for another 2-year period.

On transport and communications, the two sides stressed the importance of transport in promoting trade and development in the two countries. They expressed their regret over the state of instability and insecurity which had contributed to the neutralization of cooperation in this field.

In spite of this, the two sides expressed their determination to adopt common guidelines to improve the transport and communications infrastructure, with particular emphasis on the railways.

On health cooperation, the two sides confirmed their commitment to the eradication of human and animal diseases. They directed the two countries' experts to meet within 2 months to agree to the modalities of this cooperation.

In the field of cultural cooperation, the two sides agreed to raise the level of cooperation in the field of culture, sports, education, and youth programs. In more specific terms, they agreed to exchange visits and cultural materials, and on visits by folklore troupes.

His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda, received the Sudanese delegation. The Sudanese delegation expressed its gratitude to the Ugandan Government for the warm reception and generous hospitality accorded to it during its stay in Uganda.

The meetings took place in a warm, brotherly atmosphere reflecting the strong ties of friendship between the two countries.

Issued on 8 September 1989. Signed by Brig Faysal Ali Abu Salih, member of the NSRCC and interior minister, on behalf of the Government of Sudan. Mr Ibrahim Mukiibi, minister of home affairs, on behalf of the Ugandan Government.

Finance Minister Receives World Bank Team

EA1409105689 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Dr Sayyid 'Ali Zaki, minister of finance and economic planning, met in his office at the Planning Agency at noon today a World Bank mission at the end of its 2-week visit. He said he and the delegates discussed the country's economic problems and ways to solve them. They also discussed general economic policies and the budget of the new fiscal year in terms of findings and data compiled by the World Bank mission. The data were compiled during meetings with officials in a number of ministries and government institutions and during field visits to some development and investment projects.

The minister explained that the mission had made proposals on ways of increasing revenues and reducing government expenditure with a view to rectifying the large deficit in the internal and external balance of this year's budget. A number of officials of the planning agency attended the meeting.

Registration Ban on Volunteer Groups Lifted

EA1409213789 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] The acting undersecretary for social welfare, Mr Khalafallah Isma'il, has announced that it has been decided that the ban on the registration of foreign volunteer and national organizations in Sudan will be lifted and that foreign volunteer organizations will be reregistered according to new regulations.

The technical committee will start looking into the reregistration applications of foreign volunteer organizations, and the reregistration national organizations will take place in due course.

PDRY

Al-'Attas on Ties With U.S., Unity Process

PM1509081689 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Sep 89 pp 1-2

[Interview with Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, PDRY Supreme People's Presidium, by Zaki Shihab in Belgrade; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Shihab] When will you join the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]?

[Al-'Attas] The time has not yet come.

[Shihab] Why?

[Al-'Attas] The subject is under discussion.

[Shihab] Some time ago you mentioned your intention to organize a meeting and cooperation with the Red Sea states. What have you achieved in that regard?

[Al-'Attas] Contacts have been made with some countries with a view to keeping the region stable and free of any kind of military tension or conflict.

[Shihab] Early this year you informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that contacts with the United States were being conducted via a third party. What results have been achieved so far?

[Al-'Attas] Contacts are being made now and we hope that tangible progress will be achieved soon.

[Shihab] When will direct talks begin?

[Al-'Attas] They will begin.

[Shihab] Will diplomatic relations resume between the two countries and, if so, when?

[Al-'Attas] Yes, perhaps before the end of this month.

[Shihab] Unity between the two parts of Yemen is proceeding slowly. What prevents tangible steps from being achieved?

[Al-'Attas] It is proceeding positively, and in our view it is a good thing. Tireless work and serious dialogues and efforts are being conducted between the two parts with a view to achieving tangible steps toward our people's unity. Through our deliberations we aim to avoid a repetition of past experiences vis-a-vis the unity question. As far as we are concerned, it is a lofty and major issue, and we must deal with it very responsibly in order to achieve steadfast unity between the two parts.

[Shihab] I have heard from certain circles about a summit that you intend to convene with President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

[Al-'Attas] Yes. It will take place soon, when some ideas have crystallized.

[Shihab] How do you view your country's relations with neighboring states?

[Al-'Attas] Relations with all our brothers are good. I met earlier with [Saudi Foreign Minister] Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, who will visit our country at the beginnig of November, and the joint ministerial committee will convene its meetings in Aden. It held its previous meetings in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Al-'Attas Urges Arab, Foreign Investments

EA1409110489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council [SPC], has stressed that misinterpretation of the party's documents and of the tasks pertaining to the stage of the democratic national revolution and bypassing stages were dissipating much of our people's resources. He said: We must work toward mobilizing all the energies of our people within the framework of the reform program by arriving at a more realistic and responsible understanding of the political and economic situations. He said this during a press interview for AL-YAWM AL-SABI [THE SEVENTH DAY] magazine published in its 4 September issue.

He said that the opportunity for the use of expatriate Yemeni capital would be made available and investment would be encouraged. He said: We are confident that our expatriates will comply with the reforms and accordingly back the efforts of the party and the state to promote the program.

Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas also invited the investment of Arab and foreign capital in our country. He said there were innumerable opportunities for the investment of such capital, stressing that it would be guaranteed by the stability of our regime and by the new political and economic program we are striving to implement. He said the image of Democratic Yemen as envisioned by the possessors of national and foreign capital would change, which was what we (?hoped would be achieved) by means of actually embarking on the reform program.

He said: We will do everything in our power to provide every possible opportunity. We will remove all complications obstructing development. We will, in effect, permit the stable investment of national and foreign capital. Referring to the 10th session of the SPC to be held around the end of September and the beginning of October, he said it would discuss the draft investment law in this framework.

Turning to national issues, Brother Al-'Attas said the issue of unity used to be the subject of a kind of bargaining. He said: Today we are moving into an era of realistic responsibility in order, gradually, to achieve our Yemeni people's unity by taking concrete and practical steps as opposed to piles of documents which we sign or

long dissertations and high-sounding speeches which we exchange—concrete and practical steps towards unifying the abilities and resources of the Yemeni people and coordinating their economic and social interests down to the last detail. Thus we will advance, and that is our new method.

Al-'Attas on Oil Finds, Relations With U.S.

JN1309173189 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 12 Sep 89 pp 1, 17

[By Mustafa Abu-Libdah in Amman]

[Excerpts] AL-SIYASAH posed two questions to Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], before the end of his first official visit to Jordan which ended yesterday.

The first question concerned the degree of change that has taken place in the internal political climate. This has come to light through the latest discussions of the Supreme People's Council, as well as the extent of the PDRY's readiness to review foreign relations, especially the issues of defining its borders and bilateral relations with the Sultanate of Oman and Saudi Arabia. There is also the issue of determining the PDRY's position within the regional groupings, specifically the Gulf and Arab Cooperation Councils, as no Arab country can remain outside one of these regional groupings any longer. Then there is the effect of openness or perestroyka on the issue of dialogue and reconciliation with former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad.

The second question AL-SIYASAH posed to President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas concerned joint oil investment between the two Yemens concerning the oil fields situated on the border, and the participation of American, Soviet, European, and Kuwaiti companies in this investment which, due to its international character, gives the impression that it is a progressive model of international detente at a regional level.

President al-'Attas, accompanied by Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali and Ambassador Muhammad 'Abduh Shutfah, affirmed to AL-SIYASAH that what is currently happening in the PDRY should give pause for reflection and evaluation in order to rectify any mistakes committed during the process, along with promoting any positive aspects. [passage omitted]

During the first round of questions, President al-'Attas ignored the question on dialogue or reconciliation with former President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. When the question was asked again, President al-'Attas said he purposely ignored the question because "the subject is closed. On 13 January, 'Ali Nasir ruined himself. There was no dialogue previously; this is no longer an issue. As for the rest of the citizens, this country is theirs and they can come back anytime they wish."

Turning to the subject of oil, President al-'Attas said oil has been discovered on both sides of the border between the two Yemens, in the Ma'rib Province in the north and Shabwah Governorate in the south. The region is promising and all indications point to the existence of good reserves. At this stage however, we cannot determine their quantity.

President al-'Attas added that a joint company between the two Yemens has been formed, a holding company entrusted with the task of contacting all international companies interested in investing. Over 45 international companies have expressed their interest, proof that the region has good prospects. In the final analysis, the interested companies formed a consortium which can be joined in agreement with the Yemeni company. Foremost among these companies was one from Kuwait which owns 25 percent of the consortium. We are proud of the fact that Kuwait represents the first Arab company investing in Yemeni oil; this enhances the potential for Arab cooperation. Kuwait owns the largest share of the consortium. The rest is divided as follows: Four Soviet companies own 18.75 percent, two American companies own 18.75 percent, and a French company owns 18.75 percent. We hope this unique cooperation—as President al-'Attas described it—will contribute toward strengthening international detente and creating opportunities for joint action.

In his speech, President al-'Attas affirmed the existence of a desire on the part of both the PDRY and the United States to resume relations. He said contacts between the two sides will open in the United States this month in the hope that an agreement will soon be reached on resuming relations. [passage omitted]

Syrian Vice President Begins Visit 13 Sep

EA1409111489 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] The vice president of the Syrian Arab Republic, Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, arrived in Aden this afternoon on a 2-day official visit to Democratic Yemen. He was met at the airport by Brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Council of Ministers, and a number of the members of the Political Bureau, the Central Committee and the Presidium and ministers.

Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam told ADEN NEWS AGENCY that during the visit he would meet the officials of the party and the state leadership for consultations and exchanges of views on Arab issues as well as on those of concern to the two brotherly countries. He expressed confidence that his discussions with our country's officials would as usual lead to agreement on all the issues to be brought up by the two sides.

Meets With Al-'Attas

EA1409183289 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council, this evening received in his office Brother Abd al-Halim Khaddam, vice-president of the Syrian Arab Republic, who conveyed to him a message from his brother, the Syrian president Hafiz al-Asad, on relations between the two brotherly countries and the latest developments in the Arab arena. Conditions in the Lebanese arena were reviewed with particular reference to the need to make efforts to render successful the tasks of the higher Arab tripartite committee dealing with the Lebanese issue with a view to solving it in implementation of the resolution adopted by the Casablanca summit. The chairman of the Presidium emphasized Syria's important role in backing the committee's efforts and rendering its tasks successful. Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas also stressed Democratic Yemen's participation in every joint Arab effort to serve the cause of our Palestinian Arab people and their uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

During the meeting, emphasis was laid on the importance of bilateral consultations exchanges of views and development of cooperation between Democratic Yemen and Syria in the interests of our people and crucial Arab issues. He entrusted the vice president with conveying his greetings to his brother, the Syrian president, Hafiz al-Asad. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Air Transport Agreement Concluded With PRC

JN1409143589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1150 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 14 Sep (WAKH)—A bilateral agreement on air transportation between the United Arab Emirates and the PRC was signed here today. The pact was initialed in Beijing in December 1988.

The agreement was signed for the UAE by Muhammad Yahya al-Suwaydi, assistant under secretary for financial, administrative, and civil aviation affairs, and for the PRC by Hu Yizhou, director general of the General Administration of Civil Aviation of China, who arrived in the country for that purpose last night.

The agreement, according to al-Suwaydi, provides for mutual air transportation, overflights, and stopovers for other than commercial purposes at locations to be agreed on by the two countries' civil aviation authorities. According to the agreement, additional and unscheduled flights may be operated after securing advance approval of the other party at least 72 hours in advance of takeoff.

He told the United Arab Emirates press agency WAM that the agreement entitles either party to abrogate or suspend the license granted to the carrier of the other party or attach any conditions that it deemed fitting in special cases including violations by the other pary of the terms of the agreement or the failure of the national carrier to operate according to the terms enshrined in the pact.

The agreement further stipulates that air transport corporations may open offices in the appointed points and the personnel employed there will be liable to the laws in force in the country. Each of the signatories pledges itself to afford protection to these offices as well as to the planes and warehouses and any other property deployed for the purpose of operating these flights. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

Prime Minister Receives Ethiopian Envoy

JN1409144689 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, this morning received Kasa Kebede, member of the Workers Party of Ethiopia Central Committee, who is currently visiting our country. Bilateral relations and regional developments were reviewed during the meeting.

The interview was attended by (Qarma Wolde-Mariam), Ethiopia's ambassador to our country, and (Zaman Kasso), Ethiopia's ambassador to Egypt.

Jasim Plays Down Nuclear Reactor Reports

JN1509080889 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 13 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Subhi Haddad]

[Text] Baghdad—Iraq yesterday played down the importance of reports about rebuilding the nuclear reactor that was destroyed by the Israeli Air Force in 1981.

Answering a question at a news conference about the progress in rebuilding the Iraqi nuclear reactor, Iraqi Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that Israel had destroyed the reactor. He added that Iraq no longer concentrates on war industries. The U.S. press had reported that Iraq was trying to manufacture nuclear weapons.

Israel destroyed the "Osirak" [name as published] reactor in July 1981 under the pretext of preventing Iraq from possessing nuclear weapons. Jasim described reports suggesting that Iraq possessed nuclear, bacteriological, and chemical weapons as nonsensical and unfounded.

Jasim also defended the government's policy of relocating Kurdish villages away from areas close to the Iranian border. He said that the case of these villages was no different from that of the Arab villages in the buffer zone which Iraq declared along the Iranian-Iraqi border.

The Iraqi information minister said that Iraq was not ashamed of its decision. He added that Iraq is building new villages for the Kurds similar to those built for Arabs.

Jasim also said that Iraq supports General 'Awn because he represents legitimacy in Lebanon.

Vorontsov Receives Iraqi Presidential Envoy

JN1109194889 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Sa'd 'Abd-al-Majid al-Faysal, leader President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Foreign Ministry under secretary, arrived in Moscow today on an official 3-day visit to the Soviet Union.

In a statement to the INA correspondent in Moscow, the envoy of leader President Saddam Husayn said that he will convey a written message dealing with the bilateral relations and current Arab conditions from leader President Saddam Husayn to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The personal envoy of the leader president was received by Yuliy Vorontsov, Soviet first deputy foreign minister, and a number of Soviet Foreign Ministry officials.

Finance Minister Meets Vietnamese Counterpart

JN1409104889 Baghdad INA in English 1035 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 14, INA—Mr. Hikmat 'Umar, minister of finance, met this morning his Vietnamese counterpart Hoang Quy.

During the meeting scopes of financial and economic cooperation and means of cementing them were discussed.

UN Delegation Arrives in Baghdad 14 Sep

JN1409200589 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Sep (INA)—Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for special political affairs, and his delegation arrived here today on a 3-day visit.

In a statement to INA, Goulding said he will inspect the work and situation of the UN observers in charge of supervising the cease-fire between Iraq and Iran.

He also said he will submit a detailed report on the UN observers' situation and on the extension of their mandate to the UN secretary general, who will in turn submit it to the next meeting of the UN Security Council.

Cooperation Minutes Signed With Mauritius

JN1409184989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Iraq and Mauritius this evening signed minutes on economic, trade, and technical cooperation. The minutes were signed on the Iraqi side by Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih and on the Mauritian side by Industry Minister Clarel Malhebe.

The minutes include Iraq and Mauritius' desire to strengthen their economic and trade relations. The minutes also adopt a number of practical measures to increase trade exchange and activate economic cooperation between the two countries.

Continued Coverage of Egypt's 10-Point Plan

PLO Rejection of Plan Praised

TA1409145589 Jerusalem AL-TALI'AH in Arabic 14 Sep 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A New Failure for the Solitary Role"]

[Text] It is praiseworthy that the PLO executive committee hastened, without delay, to announce its rejection of the Egyptian 10-point plan.

This stance by the executive committee, in addition to reflecting the Palestinian national position adopted at the 19th Palestine National Council, has closed the door before any bets or attempts to arouse confusion are made in the occupied territories about the Egyptian plan.

Undoubtedly the executive committee's adoption of its decision regarding the Egyptian plan is an expression of self-confidence as well as confidence in the capabilities. This decision provides proof that the PLO adheres to its independent decision-making and its determination to act on this basis in its dealings with Arab or non-Arab states.

It is important now to turn over the page of the Egyptian plan and resume efforts to activate the international role for convening the international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO.

The lesson which must be drawn by all the parties that are actually and sincerely interested in achieving a just settlement to the conflict in the region is the uselessness of solitary roles and the futility of attempts to bypass the international conference, irrespective of whether these attempts are made by the Arab or international side.

Hamas, Al-Husayni Reject Plan

TA1409154889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Report by 'Ido Shargil, correspondent in the territories]

[Excerpt] Leaflet No 46 of the Hamas Islamic resistance movement rejects the 10 points in Egyptian President Mubarak's plan and warns against the so-called 'Arab regimes working under U.S. inspiration. Hamas also demands the termination of contacts with the United States and, as usual, stipulates 2 days for staging general strikes this month.

Faysal al-Husayni, an advocate of a moderate line within the PLO, has also voiced his reservations about the plan. He said the PLO will be the one to appoint a Palestinian delegation to the negotiations, and we will confer with anybody approved by the PLO. Mubarak's peace plan is unsatisfactory, he said.

[Begin al-Husayni recording, in English] Yes, I believe also the Palestinian leadership believes that this plan is not enough. We need to put them [the 10 points] in the framework of a sort of declaration of principles. [end recording]

[Shargil translates the above and continues] Al-Husayni added: These 10 points are insufficient, and the right to self-determination should be added to them. [passage omitted]

Peres Interviewed

TA1509082689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 15 Sep 89 pp 5, 9

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Menahem Shalev and Jeff Black; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Q: There appears to be some movement on the diplomatic front. What is your reading of the situation?

A: It's difficult to evaluate, really. Efforts are under way to salvage the government's initiative from decline. At this moment, these efforts have not crystallized into a solution which is accpetable to all.

There is the Egyptian initiative, the so-called 10 points, which in effect contain four interesting elements: first, they accept the principle of the elections—otherwise they wouldn't relate to the character of the elections; second, there is no recommendation that this be Israel's position—only that this be the Palestinian position. It's out of the question for anyone to maintain that Palestinians should come to negotiations on elections without being able to express their opinion about them.

The third interesting element is the Egyptian involvement in the negotiations about elections. It's clear that between us and the Palestinians, vacuums have to be filled, a diplomatic presence is required. One such vacuum is being filled by the United States, here is another one to be filled by Egypt. The fourth interesting feature is what is *not* contained in the Egyptian stand: there is no Palestinian state; no self-determination. All of these difficult things are not there, including the "right of return."

At the same time, we are not being asked to accept the 10 conditions. If these conditions can bring about a pre-election meeting between us and a Palestinian delegation, I view it as a correct step.

Whether the Egyptian position has been fully and formally accepted by the Palestinians—this I don't know. But I welcome the very attempt to save the diplomatic initiative.

Q: Why is the initiative in decline?

A: Mainly, because it did not find a coherent Palestinian partner. The side which was willing to negotiate, was not acceptable to us. The side which was acceptable to us, did not consolidate into a partner.

Another thing is that an initiative requires just that: initiative. The degree of initiative was not, in all places, enthusiastic and equal.

Q: One of the 10 Egyptian conditions has to do with territories for peace, which is as unacceptable to the Likud as self-determination.

A: Since the Egyptian stand is not a diktat, this point can be postponed. It can also be construed that UN Resolutions 242 and 338 constitute the same thing.

Q: Do you believe that there is a chance that the Arabs will proceed to elections without this issue being resolved in advance?

A: I don't know if the Arabs will accept the premise that 242 gives an adequate response to this question. Perhaps. Why should we guess the positions of the other side in advance? If we can reach the situation that each side comes to the negotiating table armed with its own positions, and a meeting will be created, then the meeting is the first step. Peace for territories will not be the only point of contention. There will be others.

So long as one can utlize the potential that exists in this government, I am in favour of trying it.

Q: You are leaving tomorrow for the United States. What will you tell the administration? Is it sufficiently involved in the process?

A: A new opportunity has now been created. And much depends on the American positions. So I will have to deal with what I believe is the correct viewpoint. There are things which the government decided—and I have to be loyal to these decisions. But there are things which the government did not decide; here I have to be faithful to my own positions. For example, the government decided on the initiative. The government did not decide to accept or reject Arab willingness to come with the 10 conditions.

Q: But don't you thing the Americans will have to be more active to move the process forward?

A: I hope so. The Americans are the critical link of the initiative, and they are indispensable. Even if Egypt enters the picture (and I welcome this) the American stand remains the key.

Q: The current flurry of expectations was raised by the talks in Cairo between Egyptian President Mubarak and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. We are all waiting for PLO approval. Isn't this a kind of charade?

A: We say that we prefer to negotiate with residents of the territories. This is not by chance. If there were negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, the whole story would have been different, the scope of the talks would have been different.

To my mind, the residents of the territories can seek and get advice from whomever they wish. Most of the residents of the territories are Jordanian citizens. Just as we wouldn't dream of telling an Egyptian citizen not to talk to this one and that one, so by the same token, in the final analysis, we can't tell a Jordanian citizen whom to talk to. The only thing we can say is: don't talk with bombs, don't talk with violence.

There is no reason for us to tell an Arab from the territories who is willing to negotiate that he should put his life at risk. What for? If he wants to enlist maximum support, or to avert dangers, why should we prevent him from doing so? As long as he is not a member of the PLO, and he is a resident of the territories.

Q: Do you see a day when we will overcome this obstacle of talking to the PLO through intermediaries?

A: Why do you say PLO? Why not the Palestinians? Why should we talk to an organization, when we recognize the people themselves? This thing of talking to the PLO has been going on for many years. I was one of those who opposed it. And I ask myself: was my position justified? And my response is affirmative. Because if we would not have objected, the PLO would not have changed its position.

Now we want more—and I think that is correct: we want the process, if this is at all possible, to be a democratic one. It's not only that we believe in democracy, but also that is the safest way to conduct negotiations. When there is no democracy, amongst themselves and in their attitude towards us, look at what happens. One is shooting at the other; and all are shooting at us. If there is no debate in voices, it is waged in bullets.

And I tell the Arab world, with all due respect, you've tried so many things: you've tried monarch, you've tried a republic, you've tried dictatorship, you've tried military rule. Try democracy! It will change your life—and it will change ours.

So I see a lot of wisdom in the election process which I, after all, was the first to propose. I am under no illusions. I don't think that those who will be elected will be more moderate. But they will be more *elected*. They will have the capability to talk, to struggle, to argue.

1989 was a tremendous year for democracy. Communism in Moscow has nearly collapsed. Even the French felt a bit uneasy in their bicentennial celebrations of the Revolution. 200 years ago there were 20 million French people—and nearly 25,000 people, many of them innocent, were killed in the Revolution. There is a fatigue in the world from revolution, from revolutionaries, from Fidel Castro, from people with hats and beards (I mean this symbolically, of course).

Q: One of the topics under discussion is the possibility of the participation of outside Palestinians in the delegation.

A: I read about the proposal that they should be deportees. Deportees are not exactly outside Palestinians. In certain circumstances we told the deportees that, given appropriate behaviour on their part, they would be allowed to return. I would not be quick to reject this possibility. I see no need now to state my position on outside Palestinians.

Q: You spoke about the Soviets. There is an impression that in our specific realm, nothing is happening.

A: I think the attitude towards us has changed—but has remained without a formal decision at the top. You can clearly see two different streams of thought about us in Moscow: those who say that relations should be resumed only after a peace process and those who say that the relations should be resumed as part of a peace process.

But still, there are some surprising and fascinating things going on: Soviet television was here, for the first time; tourists are allowed to come, for the first time; Israeli journalists are going to Moscow; intellectuals are visiting Israel. Israel is also for the first time not being portrayed in exclusively sombre colours.

Q: But don't you feel that the Soviets are out of the current diplomatic picture?

A: I don't think the Soviets will obstruct a diplomatic breakthrough, if that is the question. What they are saying is that without them, there will be no breakthrough. But if one does occur, what will they do, prevent it? I believe the Soviets are serious when they say that they are interested in a demilitarization of foreign relations. We can see it in their attitude towards Syria, towards the whole Middle East. [passage omitted]

Peace Plan Called 'Inadequate'

TA1509061489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Palestinian activist Faysal al-Husayni says Egypt's 10-point peace plan is inadequate. He said, however, that the PLO has not rejected the proposals outright. Al-Husayni spoke to reporter Shlomo Berger:

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] I believe that these 10 points are not covering completely the Palestinian demands.

[Berger] Could you be more specific?

[Al-Husayni] Yes. We are interested in a very important point, which is not clear there. It is the part about the self-determination. What I know is that the PLO is discussing this proposal, the 10 points, and they for sure are finding in it some advanced steps, some advanced points, and I have the feeling that they are very interested in it.

[Berger] Does that mean, then, that they have not rejected it?

[Al-Husayni] They did not reject it.

[Berger] There has also been talk about Egyptian President Mubarak inviting Israelis and Palestinians to Cairo for a peace conference. Have you received any invitation or...

[Al-Husayni, interrupting] No, no, I did not receive one.

[Berger] What do you see as the next step in the peace process?

[Al-Husayni] Look, the decision of the Americans, as we hear it, to accept the idea of a delegation from inside and outside is a very good step forward. If we would have more details about this delegation, and if the Israelis accept the idea of a Palestinian delegation from inside and outside, I believe that such an approval from the Israelis would make a very big step forward.

[Berger] Do you think this could break the deadlock between Israel...

[Al-Husayni, interrupting] Yes. Yes. Yes, for sure. [end recording]

'Written Version' Presented

TA1509104089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni today presented a written version of the Egyptian proposal, known as the 10 points. Our correspondent has learned that Basyuni conferred with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres; Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office; and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. He is also supposed to present the document to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin today. The document includes the idea of inviting Israeli and Palestinians delegations to Cairo.

Shamir Warned on Mubarak Plan

TA1509065989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Excerpt] The Knesset Members [MK's] lobby for Greater Israel has said the government must not continue to speak with two voices because President Mubarak's plan will lead to a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. The lobby therefore called on the prime minister to bring about a Cabinet decision based on the political principles endorsed by the Likud Central Committee, even if this leads to disbanding the government.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that MK's close to Ministers Levi, Sharon, and Moda'i warned that if the

Likud blindly follows the Alignment or shows signs of such a move, they will demand that the Likud Central Committee be urgently convened. Mikha'el Eytan said that if the Alignment calls for decisions which contradict the Likud's braces, he will demand that Shamir fulfill his commitment to the Central Committee. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0505 GMT on 15 September reports that "last night's Alignment ministers meeting decided that Ministers Peres and Rabin will inform the forum of four this morning that they support a Palestinian delegation that will include deportees from the territories. The Alignment ministers unanimously backed the position presented by Peres and Rabin."]

Mubarak Working Out Proposal for Talks in Cairo

TA1409162489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Egyptian President Mubarak is working out a proposal to be agreed on by the United States, Israel, and the Palestinians, according to which Israeli and Palestinian delegations will be invited to Cairo for talks.

The Palestinian delegation—made up of residents of the territories and one or two representatives from those deported recently—will come on the basis of Mubarak's 10 points while the Israeli delegation will come on the basis of the government's peace initiative.

The details were given by political sources in Jerusalem to our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen. The advantage of the formula is that at the initial stage it does not require any Israeli reference to the Egyptian president's 10-point plan.

Deported Palestinian Delegates Named by Mubarak

TA1509101689 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 15 Sep 89 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Excerpt] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak proposes including two Palestinian figures deported from the territories—Muhammad Milhim and Akram Haniyah—in the Palestinian negotiating team with Israel. Mubarak transmitted a secret message to Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin several days ago, in which he calls for "a historic meeting" in Cairo between Palestinian and Israeli delegations to discuss the election plan as the first stage of a political process.

Mubarak informed Israel that he had received the agreement of Palestinian figures in the territories—with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's approval—to open negotiations. 'Arafat conditioned the meeting with an Israeli delegation on the participation of Milhim and Haniyah, who are considered close to the PLO, in the talks. Mubarak at first had reservations about 'Arafat's condition, but then responded favorably in return for 'Arafat's covert agreement to holding the Israeli-Palestinian preparatory talks.

HADASHOT has learned that the defense minister agreed in principle to the Egyptian move, and in a private meeting called it "a chance for a breakthrough." Rabin also agreed to the inclusion of the two deportees in the delegation. Sources close to Rabin said that it does not mean he unilaterally adopted the 10-point plan, but that he merely agreed to an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo, or any other location, during which each side would present its position: The Israelis would come with the government's initiative, and the Palestinians with Mubarak's initiative, if they so wish. Rabin's sole condition for holding the meeting is the PLO's nonparticipation, either overtly or covertly.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Arens oppose the inclusion of deportees in a Palestinian delegation because, in their view, they have committed subversive acts, incited against Israel, and encouraged terrorism and violence. Shamir and Arens, on the other hand, agree in principle to a meeting with a Palestinian delegation.

Mubarak transmitted the details of his new initiative to the U.S. Administration, which responded favorably. The Americans view the initiative as a relevant Egyptian response to the Israeli peace initiative, but at the same time announced that they do not view the Egyptian plan as a substitute for the Israeli peace initiative. [passage omitted]

'Forum of 4' Meeting Ends; No Agreement Reached

TA1509075489 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] Good day from the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. The meeting of the forum of four—the prime minister, the vice prime minister, and the ministers of defense and foreign affairs—ended about 15 minutes ago here at Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's office in Jerusalem.

It is still too early for any details about the contents of the meeting. Nevertheless, in view of the decision that the members of the forum of four will continue holding consultations over the weekend, prior to Minister Peres' trip to Washington early next week, it is clear that no agreement was reached. Let us hear what Minister Peres had to say as he left the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Gutman] Mr Peres, can you tell us about a solution to the crisis over the Egyptian plan?

[Peres] First of all, you were the one to create a crisis. We have not completed our deliberations. We will continue to deliberate over the weekend.

[Gutman] Are you prepared to accept the prime minister's request to postpone a decision until your return from the United States?

[Peres] How do you know there is such a request?

[Gutman] Is there not?

[Peres] I am not prepared to say anything beyond what I have already said: that we will continue the deliberations.

[Gutman] Does the Alignment still insist on accepting the Egyptian proposal as it stands?

[Peres] We will continue the deliberations. [end recording]

Those were Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' remarks. The other ministers preferred not to make any statement on leaving the meeting.

Qatzav Denies Agreeing to Deportees in Talks

TA1409122189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Minister Moshe Qatzav has stated that he objects to any contacts with the PLO, does not acknowledge the concept of a Palestinian nation, opposes the establishment of a Palestinian state, and categorically denies having agreed to conduct talks with Palestinian deportees. Minister Qatzav was reacting to a report on his remarks in a Voice of Israel interview.

Bethlehem Mayor Wants 'Arafat To Hold Elections

JN1509094689 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has called on Yasir 'Arafat to accept the principle of holding elections in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as contained in Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's peace initiative. This came during the meeting between Frayj and 'Arafat in Tunis yesterday in the presence of several PLO Executive Committee members and the Iraqi foreign minister.

A Palestinian source in Amman affirmed that Frayj stressed during the meeting the importance of the PLO reaching an agreement on the framework for elections in coordination with Egypt, the United States, and Israel.

Our correspondent Linda Menuhin says that Frayj made a short stopover in Amman on his way back from Tunis during which he briefed several Palestinian and Jordanian officials on his talks. The Palestinian source said that Frayj has proposed that the PLO announce the names of the Palestinian figures from inside [the occupied territories] and those from outside to conduct negotiations with Israeli officials on the elections.

As'ad Saftawi, an inhabitant of Gaza told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the Egyptian 10-point plan is a good start for breaking the political deadlock in the region. However, the real starting point for serious action on the road to peace is the agreement on the formation of a Palestinian delegation that enjoys the approval of the PLO and Israel.

When asked by our correspondent, Saftawi said that he was ready to be a member of such a delegation if there were a possibility of achieving any success in the search for peace.

Further on Election Talks

TA1409200689 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj met PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis last week, and pled with him to appoint Palestinians from the territories to conduct preparatory talks with Israel on the elections. The report on Frayj's meeting with 'Arafat arrived this evening from Amman, and was attributed to one of his associates.

Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that, contacted at home, Frayj's relatives said he had not yet returned to Israel. On the other hand, Faysal al-Husayni has denied that he visited Tunis last week. Frayj told 'Arafat and other members of the PLO Executive Committee that the Egyptian 10 points contain positive elements. The meeting was arranged by Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz. This was Frayj's first meeting with 'Arafat since 1985.

Our Arab affairs correspondent points out that 'Arafat has in the last few days ordered PLO activists to stop denouncing the Egyptian initiative. It has been learned that in the wake of Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid's talks in Tunis, Ambassador Basyuni was ordered to discuss with Israel the participation of Palestinian delegates residing outside the territories in the talks on preparations for the elections.

Editorial Says 'No Desire' for Peace Initiative

TA1409165289 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Sep 89 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "A Favorable Opportunity Which Must Be Seized"]

[Text] One who follows the statements and hints emanating lately from Israel about Israel's stance toward the recent Egyptian proposals will easily realize that there is no desire in Israel to have any real peace initiative implemented. All that Israel desires is merely to talk about Shamir's initiative which is void of any content but addresses only the issue of elections in the occupied territories.

Beginning with the sincere Palestinian initiative and the call to convene an international conference to start

implementing this initiative, which Israel rejected at the time and still rejects, Israel has thwarted every sincere effort aimed at seeking a way out of the crisis that has remained insoluble for a long time. Then Israel adopted Shamir's plan which was stillborn and aroused amazement and surprise. It did not take long before the world began discussing this plan. This is what Israel wanted, mere talk about a proposal that had no chance of seeing the light of day.

Then came Mubarak's plan with its 10 points in an effort to breath life into Shamir's stillborn plan. Israel did not relent and refused even an attempt to revive this corpse.

Therefore, we will be returning to point zero and the deadlock that existed in the region before the outbreak of the intifadah [uprising] which produced an incentive to seek a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem.

Israel preferred to return to and maintain the status quo relying on the frail memory of the world and its quick neglect of the daily atrocities in the occupied territories.

The state of current political deadlock and return to the status quo that had prevailed—on the premise that the world has gotton used to hearing reports about the occupied territories as if this is something routine that excites no one—does not serve the cause of a just and durable peace desired by all the nations of the region.

The opportunity is favorable and irreplaceable. One must move to seize it for the sake of a just peace that is beneficial to everyone in the long term.

Palestinians Postpone Visit to Cairo

TA1409115089 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 14 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by the Arab affairs correspondent and agencies]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Several prominent Palestinian personalities from the territories who had planned to go to Cairo in the next few days to participate in the political contacts aimed at breaking the regional political stalemate have decided to delay their departure for the moment.

Some of them, who wished to remain unidentified, said that they are putting off their departure until the political scene clears up, in view of the rejection of the Egyptian 10 points by some PLO factions and the uncertainty regarding 'Arafat's attitude toward it.

Faysal al-Husayni returned from a European tour yesterday. He denied reports and rumors that he had stopped over in Egypt, where he dealt with political issues. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 14 September carries a report by Pe'erli Shahar and Pinhas 'Inbari on pages 1 and 4, adding that al-Husayni "disclosed that he has learned that the United States has changed its position and currently supports the inclusion of Palestinians from the diaspora in the delegation of Palestinians from the territories. He maintained that the parties are currently formulating a declaration of principles."]

IDF Spokesman: IDF 'Knows Nothing' of Launch

TA1509053389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] RAFAEL, Israel's Arms Development Authority, reports this morning that in the past year the Syrians have begun research and development into nuclear energy, microelectronics, and chemistry.

Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that according to the author of the article, Syria is investing great efforts in nuclear research. It is negotiating with Belgium and Switzerland on the building of a large nuclear energy reactor and with the USSR and Italy on nuclear research reactors. The article includes criticism of the Defense Ministry, which the author blames for neglecting research, development, and infrastructure.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has responded to the USSR claim that Israel launched a long-range ballistic missile into the Mediterranean last night and said the IDF knows nothing about such an event.

[THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 15 September on page 1 carries a report by THE JERUSALEM POST staff and news agencies citing the TASS report and adding that "Jerusalem officials expressed ignorance of the Soviet report, and declined to make any comment about it. Both the prime minister's media adviser, Avi Pazner, and Foreign Ministry spokesman Yosef 'Amihud said 'they had no knowledge whatsoever about this matter'."]

Moscow claimed that the missile launched by Israel landed in the Mediterranean, 400 km north of Benghazi in Libya, a distance of 1,300 km, and was fired from a site near Jerusalem.

Air Force Attacks 'Terrorist Target' Near Sidon

TA1409194189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1931 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Israeli Air Force planes this evening attacked a terrorist target on the outskirts of Sidon in Lebanon. All our planes returned safely. The Israeli Army spokesman reports that the target which was attacked and hit served as a headquarters for Abu-Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] terrorist organization.

200 Israeli Arabs Drafted for Police Duty

TA1309205189 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Some 200 Israeli Arabs have been recently drafted into the police and are serving in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Most of the Arabs so far drafted are residents of the north who have undergone police training and were posted to patrols and traffic control duties in the territories.

Our correspondents Uri Kohen-Aharonov and Dan Scemama report that this is one way the police force has been trying to deal with the manpower shortage in the territories after the resignation of local policemen. Police sources have said that they are pleased with the way these 200 new policemen function. They constitute a quarter of the number of Arab policemen who had quit the force. The newly recruited policemen have been residing in hotels and in the Israeli police facilities inside the Green Line.

IDF Reportedly Shooting in Nabulus, Gaza Strip

2 Wounded by Gunfire

TA1409115789 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] This morning two Nabulus residents were wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers' fire only hours after the curfew was lifted. One man was shot and severely wounded when he tried to snatch a gun from a soldier. Another resident was wounded during an incident in which stones were thrown at an IDF patrol. Nabulus has been declared a closed military zone.

1 Soldier, 4 Others Wounded

TA1409201089 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Our correspondent Beni Liss reports that an Israeli soldier was slightly wounded today in Nabulus when a rubber bullet was mistakenly discharged from his weapon. [passage omitted]

Four people were wounded in Nabulus today. Two were injured when the 10-day curfew imposed on the city was lifted, another one was wounded when he tried to snatch the weapon of a soldier, and another man was wounded in the casbah when stones were thrown at an Army patrol.

12-Year-Old Boy Killed

TA1509091989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] A 12-year-old boy was shot and killed this morning in Nabulus, and his body was sent to al-Ittihad Hospital. Military sources told our correspondent Arye Gus that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] did not fire a single shot last night or this morning and that a senior officer is checking the report on the boy's death.

A curfew was imposed on Hebron's casbah after an Israeli vehicle parked near the Cave of the Patriarchs was torched. The IDF carried out searches and made several arrests.

A Jewish female passenger was injured when a stone struck her head last night near the township of 'Anabta in Samaria. She was treated at Beilinson Hospital. Jewish settlers later went to 'Anabta and, according to locals, smashed the windows of vehicles. An IDF unit detained 12 Arab youths for questioning.

Teenager Shot Dead at Funeral

TA1509092189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] There are two fatalities in Nabulus: Tariq Tufaha, age 12, and 18-year-old 'Ata Yunis. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the boy was shot dead, but Army sources said no shots were fired either last night or this morning. Locals said the teenager was killed by soldiers' gunfire during the boy's funeral.

'Wanted' Man Shot To Death

TA1409134289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Muhammad 'Arafat Salama al-'Akra, 28, from Dayr al-Balah was killed today by Israeli soldiers' gunfire. Our correspondent Roni Sofer reports that Al-'Akra had been wanted by the security forces, and when a patrol came to arrest him Al-'Akra fled. The soldiers called on him to halt but when he did not, he was shot dead.

Press, Radio Updates Incidents in Territories

12 Sep Update

TA1309124389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Sep 89 p 12

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Troops shot and wounded 16 Palestinians in clashes yesterday in the Gaza Strip, according to Palestinian sources.

Nine were reportedly wounded in Khan Yunus, four in Rafah, and two in al-Nusayrat; one was wounded in al-Mughazi. [passage omitted]

In other clashes in the West Bank four Palestinians were wounded, including an eight-year-old boy. [passage omitted]

The military policy of demolishing homes in Gaza has changed during recent weeks and is now used not only against those who have been involved in fatal incidents

but also against suspected activists in popular committees as well as people who are suspected of attempts against alleged collaborators.

Two demolition orders were issued for these reasons yesterday against the families of Ibrahim al-Habil, 24, and Mahmud Nasman, 26, of Gaza town.

Several Nabulus residents were beaten up inside their homes. Five women from the nearby 'Ayn Vayt al-Ma' refugee camp had to be treated in al-Ittihad al-Nisa'i Hospital for severe bruises. [passage omitted]

In another matter, the Gaza police, equipped with a court order, seized the body of Muhammad Shurav, 17, who was killed Sunday by one of three Israeli guards of a fuel truck in Khan Yunus. The body was taken to the Abu Kabir forensic institute to help police identify the pistol used to shoot him, according to the Gaza police spokesman.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 13 September on page 7 in a report by Oren Kohen and Ya'ir Nahora'i adds that "about four Jewish youths threw stones at them. The stone throwing ceased when the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] arrived on the scene."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 13 September in a page 2 story by Ori Nir and Eytan Rabin reports that "approximately 1,000 prisoners in the Qezi'ot detention center in the Negev went on a hunger strike yesterday morning. According to sources in the prison, they will continue their hunger strike today."

Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 13 September in a page 2 report by David Regev, Roni Shaqed, and Hayim Broida, adds that "The UN Relief and Works Agency distributed 1,000 food packages to residents of the Nabulus casbah. This was in addition to 500 parcels passed out by the Civil Administration, and another 600 parcels distributed by charitable organizations." The report goes on to say that "a preventive early curfew effective at 1800 has been imposed by the popular committees in the Gaza Strip over the past few weeks. Arab sources reported that the reason for this order is the number of recent cases in which IDF soldiers seized local residents' cars to drive around in civilian garb in an attempt to capture wanted individuals."]

14 September Update

TA1409114589

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 14 September in a report by Roni Shaqed and David Regev on page 2 reports that "30 wanted members of the strike forces and the popular committees have been detained over the past 24 hours in Nabulus thanks to the curfew. Army units conducted house-to-house searches, taking advantage of the 13-day curfew that has been in effect in the city." Tax collectors also collected money from merchants and others.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 14 September reports that "the curfew in Nabulus was lifted this morning, although the curfews on the adjacent refugee camps are still in force," adding that "Nabulus still remains a closed military zone."

The YEDI'OT AHARONOT report also says that while military sources maintain that the murder of 27-year-old Jabbar Abu-Taha from the Khan Yunus refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, who was stabbed and struck with an ax yesterday, was the result of "criminal motives; Arab sources contend that he was a collaborator with the authorities." The authorities closed the al-Faruq mosque in the Shabura neighborhood of Rafah until further notice because it had become "a focal point for instigation and riots," and "20 Gaza residents were fined 500 shekels each yesterday after being caught without magnetic identification cards."

The report adds that "a unit of Israel Police bomb disposal experts began operating in the Gaza Strip approximately 2 weeks ago, in view of the high incidence of cases in which bombs and roadside charges have been found in the region."

Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 14 September carries a report on page 5 by Oren Kohen which adds that "Hazza Husni al-Ashhab, the chairman of the East Jerusalem engineers union, and two other members of the union have recently been apprehended. The two, Khalid Abu-'Arafi and Hasan al-Qiq, are charged with membership in Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement."

Further on 14 Sep Activities

TA1509084789

[Editorial Report] Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 15 September reports that "a 17-year-old youth from Hebron was wounded yesterday, and local residents say his injuries were caused by shots fired by Israeli civilians. The youth is being treated in al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem. The Army is investigating the incident."

The same source also reports that "police and security forces have last night arrested the eight members of an East Jerusalem gang. They are suspected of a wide range of crimes, including throwing Molotov cocktails, setting cars and shops on fire, and incitement."

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 15 September carries a report by Mikhal Sela' on pages 1 and 16 on yesterday's events in the territories, saying that over 100 Nabulus residents were beaten by troops and that according to Nabulus sources "half of them needed medical treatment." The report goes on to say that Nabulus local sources maintain that a youth was shot "in the back" from a helicopter while he was on the

roof of his home, while adding that "the IDF spokesman strongly denied that anybody in Nabulus has been shot from a helicopter."

The report further adds that "two 3-year-old children from the Ayda refugee camp near Bethlehem were shot and wounded during a clash, one in the leg and the other in the hand, according to Palestinian sources," adding that "one resident of Janin and one of nearby 'Arrabah were hospitalized in al-Ittihad hospital in Nabulus with gunshot wounds."

THE POST also reports the number of casualties in the Gaza Strip, saying that "troops shot and wounded seven Palestinians in Khan Yunus, six in Rafah, four in al-Burayj, three in al-Nusayrat, and one in each of the Gaza and Jabalyah refugee camps, according to Palestinian sources. Three of the wounded were said to be under 12 years old."

Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 15 September carries a similar report by Ori Nir on page 2, adding that "the IDF spokesman for the Southern Command reported that relative quite prevailed in the Gaza Strip yesterday and no one was wounded."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 15 September in a report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Uri Binder on pages A1 and 2 adds that yesterday three men were "reportedly wounded in clashes in the villages of Jaba', al-Tall, and Kifl Harith," while "the IDF continued carrying out initiated operations in Samaria villages and refugee camps."

Jardanah Says ACC Banks To Support Dinar

JN1509092689 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 15 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Amin]

[Excerpt] Finance Minister Basil Jardanah has expressed optimism about the future of Jordan's financial situation, pointing out that the banks of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] are planning to support Jordan's foreign currency reserves in order to support the Jordanian dinar. The minister declined to give further details on the value or form of the support.

There have been reports prior to this about the possibility of the ACC banks and some other institutions and parties depositing, interest free, a large amount of money—possibly between $500 million and $1 billion—in the Central Bank of Jordan. This would boost Jordan's economy because the money could be redeposited in major internatonal banks in return for interest to be used to replenish the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves. [passage omitted]

Minister Returns From Damascus Meetings

JN1409170689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Industry and Trade Minister Ziyad 'Innab returned to Amman from Damascus last night after participating in the meetings of the ministerial follow-up committee formed by the Arab Industrial Development Organization, which concluded its meetings in Damascus yesterday.

The committee discussed the arrangements required for the seventh Arab industrial development conference due to be held in Tunis during 20-25 October. The conference will focus on ways to bolster Arab industrial development and achieve inter-Arab industrial coordination and integration.

The committee, which comprises the industry ministers of Jordan, Syria, Tunisia, and Algeria, considered the studies, working papers, and the technical and administrative arrangements which will be submitted to the conference. The committee also drew up recommendations needed to finalize reports and studies.

The minister also met with the Syrian economy and foreign trade minister and discussed with him issues pertaining to bilateral relations. They carefully examined the implementation of the trade protocols signed between Jordan and Syria, the bilateral trade exchange, the equal deal signed by the two countries, and the issue of launching trade centers and fairs in the two countries. Moreover, they reviewed the work of the joint committees formed in accordance with decisions made by the Higher Joint Jordanian-Syrian Committee. They also assessed the accomplishments scored during the period following the latest higher joint committee meetings.

King, Queen To Visit Canada in October

JN1409120689 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The Royal Hashemite Court has issued the following statement: In response to an invitation from General Governor of Canada Mrs Jeanne Sauve, Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur will pay an official visit to Canada during the 2d week of October 1989.

Columnist Discusses Egypt's 10-Point Peace Plan

JN1509090889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Sep 89 p 14

["An Arab Opinion" column by Mahmud al-Rimawi: "Boosting the Arab Plan and Activating Peace Efforts"]

[Text] During his latest visit to Tel Aviv, Dr Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, spoke about mediation efforts his country is undertaking to solve a basic problem in the region's conflict; that is, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Since the announcement in late 1987 of the new political inclinations of the PLO, including the proclamation of the State of Palestine (which Cairo recognized but without going as far as opening a Palestinian emabassy in the Egyptian capital), Cairo has been active on many levels to support peace efforts in the region, including efforts to bring the Israeli Government and the PLO closer. These efforts, however, have always been rejected not only by the Likud leaders, but also by Labor leaders such as Rabin and Peres. The doves of the Labor Party, however, say openly that there is no solution without direct Israeli negotiations with the PLO itself, not only with Palestinians in the occupied territories. The most prominent of these doves are 'Ezer Weizman and Aba Ebban. The latter returned from Cairo recently where he met with a number of top Egyptian officials, and on his return to Tel Aviv he spoke about an "unprecedented" Egyptian initiative to hold a meeting between Israeli and Palestinian delegations to overcome the obstacles to peace.

What deserves attention here is that these moves are revolving around the election plan and the formation of a Palestinian delegation from the occupied territories with two additional Palestinian figures from outside the territories. While the Egyptian ideas expressed in the 10-point plan are facing Israeli objections such as those arising from the latest Israeli Cabinet meeting, they appear to be enjoying U.S. support and the partial or conditional support of the Palestinians. The Palestinian side is waiting "to make sure that the ideas will lead to a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestine question," as expressed by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan in Washington recently. The practical outcome of the Egyptian plan is to cool the conflict and break the tension. In its announced form, the plan does not contain clear or sufficient directions for laying down substantial foundations for a just and comprehensive peace required by the general Arab and Palestinian desires

expressed in the Casablanca resolutions. While both the Israeli and Palestinian sides are eager to push one another into rejecting initiatives and proposals made by a third party—and this includes the latest Egyptian initiative—it is clear that, amid all this, a war of attrition is taking place, and the occupied territories are its main battlefield. In this war, Tel Aviv is seeking to neutralize foreign influences, while, inside [the occupied territories], it is trying to weaken the intifadah [uprising]. It is doing this first through various types of oppression, and then through political plans—the latest and most dangerous of which is the elections plan.

In light of this, there is an Arab conviction that a fraternal and large country like Egypt has a greater role than mediator—if it is at all correct for an Arab party to play such a role. If Tel Aviv still enjoys diplomatic relations with a large Arab country, it is natural that Tel Aviv be made to pay the price for this gain; namely, its recognition of the national and political rights of the Palestinians, and its readiness to withdraw its forces from the occupied Arab territories. It is also of extreme importance to bolster Arab consensus and the Palestinian Arab peace initiative, and to adhere to the requirements of international legitimacy.

Columnist Criticizes Abu-Sharif Statements

JN1309114589 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
13 Sep 89 p 18

["I Say a Word" column by 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Umar: "Stop This Clearance Sale"]

[Text] The PLO has done well to announce its disavowal of Bassam Abu-Sharif's statements in which he said he was ready to go to Jerusalem or Tel Aviv to hold talks with the Labor Party on the issue of elections proposed by the enemy prime minister as the basis for solving the Palestinian problem.

As we stress our search for a just and lasting peace, we are astonished because some Arab officials have not learned the lesson of Al-Sadat's experience.

Al-Sadat went to Jerusalem and delivered a speech at the Knesset which did not lack peculiarity when he said: "Our land is sacred." He also warned the Israelis against rejecting the hand stretched out to them for peace. He said: "Otherwise, God will decide." At the time, Al-Sadat was president of the largest Arab country and had an army of a million fighters, which 'Abd-al-Nasir had prepared for crossing the Suez Canal. Later, Al-Sadat actually crossed the Suez Canal. In addition, Al-Sadat won the support of the United States, and he allied himself with it because it held 99 percent of the cards for a solution. Al-Sadat went on with his adventure, which ended in the platform incident [assassination of Al-Sadat] without ending the Israeli occupation and without an Israeli withdrawal from Tabah.

What do Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif and others have to propose in visiting Israel? Shamir might have asked himself this question before announcing that his security forces would arrest Bassam Abu-Sharif as a member of a terrorist organization, although the same forces guarded Al-Sadat and his delegations when they came to occupied Palestine.

The PLO holds many strong cards in the battle for peace. It has the intifadah [uprising], Arab and international support, its insistence on resisting the occupation, and international recognition of the Palestinian state. The PLO's most important cards are the reservations of some Arabs about the idea of making peace with the Zionists and the reservations of some Palestinian organizations, to the point of splitting over the issue. Yes, these reservations are an element of pressure on the Zionist extremists—an element that also provides an Arab alternative if the battle for peace fails. Running after what seems to be peace, despite all the Israeli intransigence and crimes against the intifadah, is a waste of the PLO's cards and will not force Israel to adopt a moderate line. On the contrary, it will only convince Israel that its intransigence has succeeded and that it should continue its policies.

Liberal Party Member Critical of U.S. Policy

JN1409170189 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 13 Sep 89 p 17

[Text] Beirut—Eng Dany Sham'un, leader of the Lebanese National Liberal Party, has told AL-SIYASAH that at present the Americans have no plan to solve the Middle East problem or the Lebanese crisis.

The Americans want to keep the Middle East in a state of continuous flare-up, Sham'un said.

Sham'un asserted that the Americans insist on rejecting the convening of any international conference despite the Soviet efforts in this regard.

He added that the Americans consider the Arab countries a ranch on which they impose their will and implement the laws that suit their interests.

In this regard, Sham'un explained that he wants the Americans to understand that the Arab states will not turn into U.S. centers of influence.

Sham'un concluded by praising the French-Soviet stand on Lebanon and accusing the Americans of obstructing the efforts being made to achieve peace in the Middle East and find a permanent solution to the region's crises. He denounced the U.S.-Israeli position that aims at exhausting the Arab states' energies.

He said the U.S. Administration is working to implement a plan aimed at giving the al-Biqa' Valley, 'Akkar, and Tripoli to Syria in exchange for the Golan Heights.

PFLP Denies Connection With Arms Smuggling

NC1509092089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 15 Aug 89

[Text] The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] has denied any connection to arms smuggling or to the Italian Mafia. The antiterror police squads in Italy said they identified 20 Palestinians and 16 Italians involved in arms smuggling, adding that the Palestinians are members of the Popular Front.

Nasirite Organizations Form Resistance Group

NC1509122189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] In West Beirut today, the Nasirite organizations announced the birth of what they called the Popular Resistance-the Military Organization. At a news conference at the Bristol Hotel, Dr Samir Sabbagh explained that this organization is a force for Lebanon and all the Lebanese. Its only task is to resist Israel and every scheme directed against the unity and Arabism of the country; its only activity is to defend Beirut's dignity and its neighborhoods, which have become contact lines separating the sons of the same homeland; and its only duty is to reinforce the legitimate authority represented by the government of Prime Minister Salim al-Huss, he declared.

The Nasirite organizations are the Nasirite Unionists Movement, the Arab Socialist Union, the Nasirite Organization, and the Islamic Grouping movement. It should be noted that these are Sunni organizations which are not included in the so-called National Front.

Israeli Aircraft Stage Mock Raids Over Sidon

NC1409165389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1614 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Israeli warplanes today staged mock air raids over the area of Sidon and the camps for the 2d consecutive day. In addition, Israeli gunboats were moving off the southern coast. Antiaircraft and artillery fire was opened at the warplanes and gunboats, three of which tried to approach al-Jiyah Port.

Israeli Helicopters Fire Rockets at Palestinians

NC1409192989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Two Israeli helicopters fired a number of rockets at a position belonging to the Fatah Movement—Revolutionary Council in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp in Sidon at 2145 today.

[In a Sidon-datelined report at 1916 GMT on 14 September, Paris AFP in English adds that the Israeli helicopters "raided positions held by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Fatah-Revolutionary Council of Abu Nidal."]

Air Raid Injures 3 People

NC1509062289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] A spokesman for Fatah—Revolutionary Council says that Israeli helicopters raided the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, but no casualties were reported. The statement further noted that the Israeli aircraft encountered ground fire.

AFP quotes a Palestinian source as saying that the raids left three persons injured, adding that Israeli gunboats were cruising off the Sidon coast during the air raids.

Group Claims Responsibility for Attack on Syrians

NC1409191489 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The Martyr Hasan Khalid Group has claimed responsibility for an attack on a roadblock manned by the Syrian occupation forces in the al-Maramil area in West Beirut tonight. According to the group, one of the occupation force personnel was killed and a number of others were wounded in the attack.

Violent Fighting Reported in Mountain Areas

NC1409160989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1540 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Violent fighting involving various types of weapons, particularly machineguns, rockets, and antitank weapons, has been going on for some time along the al-Dawwar-Al-'Ayrun line.

Skirmishes are also reported along the Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat line in the mountain. Antitank fire is reaching as far as residential areas in Bsus and Bdadun.

More Fighting Erupts

NC1509053989 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Instead of being able to relax and look forward to a truce in preparation for a political solution, fighting broke out last night to remind them of previous nights of indiscriminate and mad shelling. Shells fell on Qasqas, Hayy al-Karamah, al-Ma'murah, Burj al-Barajinah, al-Shiyah, Spinneys, al-Tariq al-Jadidah, and the Military Beach, as well as in the mountain region.

East Beirut media have reported that the al-Matn and Kasrawan coasts came under artillery fire. Shells also fell on al-Ashrafiyah at 0130 today.

The unexpected flareup has shaken the people's optimism about a truce and the start of a political process to achieve reforms and reconciliation through the higher Arab committee.

1 Dead, 1 Wounded in Shelling

NC1509062989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Between 0045 and 0300 today the areas of al-Ashrafiyah, al-Hadath, al-Matn, and the Kasrawan Coast came under concentrated Syrian bombardment, killing one person and wounding another.

Between 0130 and 0600 the residential areas in al-Hadath were the target of approximately 100 mortars from Beirut's Southern Suburb accompanied by intensive antiaircraft fire. Approximately 12 shells are reported to have fallen on upper Kasrawan early this morning. West Beirut media sources said shells fell on the areas of al-Ramlah al-Bayda', al-Rawshah, the Military Beach, 'Ayn al-Muraysah, the airport road, and Burj al-Barajinah.

Guarded calm now prevails along the combat lines of Beirut, the Suburb, and the mountain after the violent clashes shortly before midnight during which shells fell on nearby residential areas. In al-Matn, tension reigns along the al-Dawwar-al-'Ayrun combat lines, which were the scene of violent clashes involving machineguns, rockets, and tank fire last night.

Maritime Target Near Juniyah Shelled 15 Sep

NC1509054489 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Statement issued by the Army Command in Beirut on 15 September]

[Text] Our artillery opened fire on a maritime target that appeared off the Juniyah port at 0030 on 15 September 1989 to prevent it from reaching the ports of the eastern area in implementation of the decision to prevent arms and ammunition from reaching that area.

Beirut Radio on Israeli Activities in South

NC1409175589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] According to information received in Hasbayya from the occupied southern area today, Israeli occupation forces brought an armored force of 35 vehicles and over 330 soldiers to the occupied area last night. The vehicles include Merkava tanks and M-113 armored personnel carriers. This force was deployed in the agent militia's positions north of Marj 'Uyun, opposite the resistance positions in western al-Biqa', and in other positions north of Hasbayya, opposite the liberated area.

Enemy helicopters flew over al-'Urqub, Marj 'Uyun, and the villages in the central sector in the south this morning. For the 5th day running, the enemy forces are still in a state of maximum alert. Mechanized patrols have been intensified in the villages of al-'Urqub and those adjacent to the international borders between Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territories.

These forces stormed a number of houses in the villages of Kafr Shuba, al-Habbariyah, and Kafr Hamam this morning. They also used light-caliber machineguns to rake the areas around al-Majidiyah, al-Mari, Halta, and (Tallat al-Shi'iri). Israeli tanks bombarded positions held by the Islamic resistance near the village of Libbaya in western al-Biqa' and in the al-Dahr hills and (Jisr al-Zahali) this morning.

Militia artillery had shelled these targets last night. A Hizballah source said that the shelling caused only property damage.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese resistance groups-Amal issued the following statement today:

While one of our groups was reconnoitering the areas around the town of Bayt Lif and Yatar, it came under violent 105-mm artillery shellfire from the occupation forces' positions in Jabal Humayd, al-Qawzah, and Ramiyah. A clash ensued between the group and the agents in the oustkirts of the town of Bayt Lif. The group then returned safely to base. Immediately afterward, the occupation forces searched the area for the resistance fighters.

Resistance Activities in South Reported

NC1509115689 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Excerpts] A Lebanese national resistance group this morning fired five rockets at an agent Lahd militia position on Anan Hill in the Jazzin district, scoring direct hits. The militia summoned armored reinforcements. When the reinforcements arrived, the resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge, damaging an M-113 armored troop carrier and injuring its passengers. The agent's radio admitted the operation at noon today, but failed to mention casualties. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, an Amal Movement military source in the South has announced that at 0030 today an Israeli gunboat advanced toward al-Sarafand port. The movement's ground defenses opened fire at the gunboat, forcing it to withdraw.

Vice President Concludes Visit to PDRY, YAR

Delivers Message to Salih

JN1309201089 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Excerpt] President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a message dealing with the Arab situation and bilateral relations to Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR].

Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam delivered the message to the Yemeni president when he was received by him yesterday in Sanaa.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani; Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Mr Muhammad al-Khadim al-Wajih, minister of transport and head of the honor mission.

During the meeting, they reviewed and evaluated the Arab situation and means of improving joint Arab action. The Lebanon crisis was also discussed. Points of view were identical on the necessity of bolstering the Arab tripartite committee to implement the Casablanca summit resolution and help the fraternal Lebanese people rid themselves of their permanent crisis and reinstate peace and security in Lebanon. They also agreed that the committee should be supported to help Lebanon regain its unity and realize accord among the Lebanese parties on the grounds that they should shoulder their responsibilities to solve the Lebanese crisis, set and approve the constitutional reforms that guarantee Lebanon's retrieval of its national unity and Arab role, realize full equality among its sons, and cancel political sectarianism which constituted the major factor in exploding the Lebanese crisis.

'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam arrived in Sanaa yesterday at noon. [passage omitted]

Announces Qaddumi Visit

JN1509091889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 15 Sep 89 pp 1, 12

[Text] Sanaa, QNA—Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has stated that Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, will soon visit Damascus. Khaddam also said that there would be no difficulty in any Palestinian official coming to, or visiting Syria.

In an interview with the Yemeni newspaper, 26 SIBTAMBAR [26 SEPTEMBER], published yesterday, the Syrian vice president said: We will do everything we can to unite the Arab stand against potential dangers.

He asserted that Syria opposes the fighting in Lebanon because this fighting serves to further plots to partition Lebanon. He explained that the Lebanese problem is not caused by the Syrian presence, but by the Lebanese system [of government], which existed before Syria entered Lebanon.

Khaddam added that it is not in Syria's interest to play the role of policeman in Lebanon and that there must be a peaceful, rational dialogue among the sides involved in the Lebanese crisis, provided this is preceded by a total cease-fire so that security and stability can be restored in Lebanon.

Regarding relations between Syria and Egypt, Khaddam said that the relationship between the two countries has its own particular features and historic dimensions in the past, present, and future. He said that sympathy between Syria and Egypt has never ceased.

Returns to Damascus

JN1409192989 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam returned to Damascus this afternoon, concluding a visit to the Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY]. Khaddam yesterday delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to PDRY President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas concerning the current Arab situation and the Lebanese question.

The Syrian vice president met at 0900 this morning with 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party. He also met at 0800 this morning with Salim Salih Muhammad, the party's assistant secretary general.

During the two meetings, talks revolved around bolstering relations between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Yemeni Socialist Party, bilateral relations, and Arab developments.

Al-Shar': Lebanon Pullout Would Cause Anarchy

PM1409145689 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 8 Sep 89 p 9

[Interview with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' by Luciano Fontana in Belgrade; date not given]

[Text] Belgrade—Is Syria really prepared to withdraw from Lebanon? This news, originating from Arab sources following a meeting between Syrians and Palestinians immediately generated great interest. It would indeed mark a turning point in the tragic Lebanese crisis. It is the first positive sign at a conference that has highlighted only splits over regional conflicts. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' played down the enthusiasm, however: "We believe that in a couple of months' time it will be possible to reach a political solution in the right direction." But according to the minister, for the time being, the withdrawal of Damascus' troops would lead only to "total anarchy."

[Fontana] At the meeting with the PLO, did you declare your willingness to withdraw your troops, or does this possibility not exist?

[Al-Shar'] It is not our desire to remain in Lebanon. We are not an occupying force. Our presence is temporary. But a sudden withdrawal would draw Lebanon into total anarchy, the most complete disintegration. It is our duty to help our Lebanese brothers. We did so in 1976 when the Christians summoned us, and we are doing so now that General 'Awn wants a military solution.

[Fontana] Many Arab countries called—again at this summit—for an end to the fighting and for your withdrawal...

[Al-Shar'] Syria too has always urged a political accord for Lebanon. We believe that the military option is destructive. But the Christian General 'Awn restarted the civil war, sparking off bombardments and killings. It was he that forced us to respond militarily.

[Fontana] If 'Awn resigns, are you willing to abandon your adventure in Lebanon?

[Al-Shar'] It would certainly be an important sign; it would allow the other Christian leaders to reconsider their decisions, to abandon 'Awn's folly. But here it is not a matter of the willingness to withdraw or the possibility or impossibility of withdrawing. The only absolute certainty is the quest for a peaceful solution. Whoever wants this knows that Syria wants, and will have, a positive stance.

[Fontana] Can the United Nations have a role in the quest for peace?

[Al-Shar'] It cannot do much, apart from two things—one very positive, the other very negative: Force Israel to withdraw from the territories that it has occupied; this is the positive action. On the other hand it would be very negative if, through its presence, the United Nations wanted to achieve further partitionings, as happened in Cyprus.

[Fontana] In that case how do you intend to reach a solution to the conflict in 2 months?

[Al-Shar'] We have asked the three Arab countries responsible for finding an accord to work hard. The first step is a permanent cease-fire and the establishment of a committee to ensure its observance.

Sources Say U.S. Officers' Visit Unofficial

PM1409153889 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 7 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Muhammad Sadiq entitled: "Sources in Washington Tell AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: U.S. Military Men Visited Syria and Syrian Media Men Visited United States"]

[Text] Washington, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Diplomatic sources in Washington have confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that U.S. military representatives visited Syria last spring, and that a number of of Syrian media representatives visited the United States. But the sources denied that the visits had any kind of official or political nature.

The sources' denial of the official and political nature of those visits came after U.S. State Department Spokesperson Margaret Tutweiler declined to confirm, deny, or comment on a question about the nature of the visit to the U.S. Defense Department by a senior Syrian media official and another question about visits that U.S. officials intend to make to Syria within the framework of the usual regular visits.

The sources told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that U.S. Ambassador to Damascus Edward Djerejian organized a visit to Syria for a group of U.S. officers last spring, and that the group did in fact visit Syria, but the visit was an ordinary one and had no political or official nature.

The sources added that the officers visited Syria as tourists and for exploration, not on the basis of their ranks or posts, nor as representatives of the U.S. Defense Department (the Pentagon).

The sources confirmed that the U.S. military men met with Syrian officials who held a dinner for them and spoke with them. The sources did not mention the U.S. officers' number or ranks, but indicated the nonexistence of of any military contacts between Syria and the United States.

As for the senior media official said to have visited the U.S. Defense Department, the sources said that groups of Syrian journalists and media men visited the United States within a program organized by the U.S. Information Agency, through which they visited four information groups in the United States.

The sources added that such visits are routine and are always taking place. They did in fact visit the Defense Department, the State Department, and other officess that the information agency includes in the visit programs it organizes.

The sources expressed their belief that the aim of raising such issues and marginal matters at this particular time is to exploit the present situation, sabotage relations

between the United States and Syria in the light of current developments, and create incorrect impressions.

The sources pointed out that these visits are similar to visits which senators and their assistants make to explore views, but senators' visits are of an official nature, whereas these visits are of a personal nature only.

Commentary Reviews Meeting of Arab Ministers

JN1409151889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Station commentary]

[Text] The eyes of the Lebanese and Arabs yesterday were looking toward the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab tripartite committee in Jeddah. This time, optimism prevailed over the possibility of the committee achieving tangible success in implementing a comprehensive cease-fire, beginning a march of political reforms, and reviving constitutional establishments in Lebanon through the implementation of a cease-fire, the lifting of all land and sea blockades, and the reopening Beirut Airport. This would require the establishment of maritime control and a mechanism to inspect ships heading toward Lebanese ports.

The nationalist Lebanese forces, which have displayed complete readiness to cooperate with the committee, continue to show the same attitude. Their only request presented to the committee is to ban arms deliveries by the Iraqi regime and Israel to the 'Awn partitionist clique. This is especially relevant since Saddam's foreign minister stated at the recent Arab League Council meeting that the Iraqi Government would continue to supply the 'Awn forces with weapons. In addition, the 'Awn clique has deliberately escalated the security situation and resumed wide-scale shelling of West Beirut and nationalist areas in attempt to place obstacles before the Arab committee's move and to create a volatile atmosphere to prevent the committee from successfully carrying out its mission.

Observers in Beirut have expected the nationalist forces—in a bid to facilitate the Arab committee's mission—to lift the blockades as an assertion of their faith in the Arab solution, especially since the nationalist forces are in fact waging a battle to confirm and entrench Lebanon's Arabism. When the nationalist forces confronted the isolationist forces and the 'Awn coupist clique, they were in fact taking part in defending Arab fate and security.

The isolationist, Zionized Lebanon demanded by 'Awn cannot be anything but a bloody thorn in the Arab side and a threat to its security. On the other hand, the nationalist and Islamic Lebanese forces also expect the Arab committee to take tangible measures to safeguard Lebanon's Arabism from hostile schemes—schemes which are headed and concocted by the isolationists in coordination with Israel and the fascist Iraqi regime. These forces believe that there must be a mechanism to control the ships that carry weapons to the isolationist 'Awn clique in order to prevent the delivery of these weapons as long as they are used against the nationalist Lebanese who defend their Arabism and affiliation.

The Arab ministers can clearly see the large-scale destruction that has been inflicted on West Beirut and the towns and villages of the Mountain and al-Biqa' by the weapons that have been supplied, and are being supplied to the agent 'Awn clique by Saddam Husayn. These shipments are sufficiently indicate the size of the plot implemented by 'Awn and his masters, and they indicate to the Arab ministers what they should do.

This time, the nationalist forces expect the Arab committee to move directly, implementing measures that should be taken to entrench the cease-fire, in order to tackle the essence of the Lebanese dispute and adopt the demand of all the Lebanese in all areas; namely, political and social reforms as a path to national accord and comprehensive reconciliation among the sons of the one homeland. If the point is to save Lebanon from being destroyed and obliterated—and this, in fact, is the point, or must be so—then extricating Lebanon from its ordeal dictates that the causes of the crisis be tackled and uprooted. By this we mean that all manifestations of injustice and oppression that are inseparable from the current sectarian Lebanese system of the privileged must be removed. The Arab committee set up by the highest Arab body—the Casablanca summit—cannot bargain over the issue of achieving justice and equity among all Lebanese. It cannot sacrifice the interests of the overwhelming majority in favor an agent pro-Israeli clique.

Political reforms are not demanded by the nationalist and Islamic Lebanese forces only, but demanded by all Lebanese and Arabs and by the international community itself. When circumstances exist for the overwhelimg majority of the Lebanese people to take matters into their own hands and run their own affairs, the Zionist danger will recede and Lebanon's Arabism and the security of the entire Arab homeland will be reinforced.

That is the responsibility of the Arab committee, which faces huge challenges, foremost of which are the Saddam regime's insistence on inflaming sedition and the Israeli scheme aimed at fragmenting and Zionizing Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Mas'ud Says Salang Cut; Spokesman Denies Claim

BK1509003289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1917 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 14 (afp)—Afghan resistance guerrillas attacking the northern Salang highway have closed Kabul's supply route from Moscow after overrunning several important mountain outposts, the resistance's Northern Command chief said.

The mujahidin guerrillas destroyed 19 tanks and armoured vehicles in the first assault Monday against an army convoy carrying supplies from Parvan Province's capital Charikar to Salang, Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud said in a radio message received here Thursday.

Mujahidin shelling ignited a huge fire, and smoke billowing from the burned vehicles could be seen several kilometers (miles) away, said a spokesman for Jami'at-e Eslami, quoting the message.

(In Kabul, Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani played down the significance of the attacks by Mr. Mas'ud, who enjoys popularity in Kabul for his actions against Soviet troops in the past 10 years.

(Mr. Amani said the attacks on the Salang highway had been "hit and run" and that the road had been open Wednesday and Thursday for traffic from the border town of Heyraton.

(Journalists at the Kabul checkpoint of the road confirmed traffic was flowing normally, though truck drivers arriving in Kabul said they understood that the route had been severed for a few hours Wednesday.

(Mr. Amani also conceded that there had been "a more severe than usual ambush on the road earlier this week.")

(Mr. Amani also confirmed that Bagram Airbase, the largest military airfield in the country, had been rocketted Tuesday. However he said the attack had lasted only one day and added that it was operational Wednesday and Thursday.)

The Jami'at faction is one of seven Afghan resistance factions grouped under an alliance that has its base in the northwest Pakistani city of Peshawar.

The attack was part of a large-scale offensive on a 50-kilometer (30-mile) front along the highway launched Monday by Mr. Mas'ud, nicknamed the "Lion of Panjsher" for thwarting successive attempts by Kabul troops to flush out his forces from the northern Panjsher Valley. Mr. Mas'ud had planned to launch the offensive much earlier in the year but it was put back after a major falling out with a rival resistance group.

The guerrillas captured seven security posts the regime troops had set up in the mountains to guard the highway, which is considered the government's main artery for supplies from the Soviet Union. The mujahidin fighters also attacked a mountain battalion at the Olang garrison, "spreading panic among its troops," the message said.

The highway garrison, manned by more than 1,000 soldiers and officers of the 66th Battalion of the 18th Army Division, was used as a supply base for troops in adjoining areas. The rebels killed 14 officers and 20 soldiers and took 55 prisoners while seven bodies were recovered from the bunkers torched during the rebel shelling, the message said. Most of the troops fled, leaving vast amounts of supplies intact, it added.

The Jami'at spokesman quoting Mr. Mas'ud's communication said that the guerrillas, because of difficulties transporting the booty, torched 14 tanks, 17 long-range cannons, two BM-12 rocket launchers and a large stock of food and clothing.

The guerrillas were engaged in heavy fighting at Jabal os-Saraj, Charikar and Salang along the highway, blocking convoy movements for the past three days, he said. Six mujahidin have been killed and six wounded in the current operation while eight sustained injuries in a mine blast near the town of Salang.

The rebels also attacked Bagaram Airbase, and planes had been unable to fly out since Tuesday amid continued shelling and rocketing of the main facility in the north, he said. The mujahidin gunners also attacked troops at the Qal'eh-ye Sorkh garrison in the district of Jabal os-Saraj. Mujahidin artillery set the garrison on fire and flames continued to rage for more than three hours Wednesday, the message said.

(In Kabul Thursday, a careening truck carrying cannisters of fuel for Soviet-made Scud missiles created a brief panic when it dropped four of the cannisters at a busy intersection near the Foreign Ministry.

(One of the cannisters split open, spewing bright orange gas and panicking scores of women and children queuing for prized monthly rations of kerosene.

(The gas billowed unchecked for almost an hour before a crane removed all four cannisters. No casualties were reported in the incident.)

Ministry Warning on Direct U.S. 'Intervention'

LD1409173989 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] A Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman, referring to the United States' direct supply of weapons to armed commanders inside Afghanistan, stated the following:

As can be learned from the international press, the responsible U.S. authorities have expressed a readiness henceforth to directly supply the weapons, which for years it has been giving to the leaders of the extremist opposition in Peshawar through Pakistan's military intelligence, to the armed extremist commanders. Also it has been said that the United States is considering

supplying advanced mass destruction weapons to the extremist forces and utilizing them in air defense.

If affirmed, these proposals would mean that the United States is moving from open interference, to open intervention and direct aggression against our country, and would transform the existing problems into a serious regional conflict with grave international consequences. This would mean that the United States would be openly, brazenly, and completely contravening international norms and the UN Charter, and would be completely ignoring current processes in the improvement of international relations. At the same time this would display a categorical indifference to international public opinion and to broad sociopolitical circles in the United States and other countries, which clearly demand a political solution and a very speedy end to this fratricidal war in our country and the present grave regional problem.

In circumstances when the Republic of Afghanistan has put forward sound proposals, acceptable to all sides in the war, for achieving political solution, and when the results of the Belgrade conference of heads of states or governments of nonaligned countries showed that these proposals are acceptable to the great majority of the countries, those circles which seek to extend the war and the futile bloodshed in Afghanistan should bear in mind the grave and dangerous political consequences of such measures. They should know that such measures, as past experience shows, result in nothing but further bloodshed and killing of Afghans, and the international political isolation of the executors of that policy. For example, the experience after the withdrawal of the Soviet Union's military forces from Afghanistan shows that such actions, if put into practice, will result in a shameful defeat for the armed opposition and their international and regional backers, among them Pakistan and the United States. Our people are ready for every sort of intensification of intervention and aggression. The direct participation of the United States in distributing weapons to extremist armed commanders, cannot, in fact, be anything but the direct involvement of that country in this conflict. Once again we declare that if such plans are implemented, the Bush administration's policy will inevitably be defeated.

French Aid Worker Released in Kabul 14 Sep

BK1409145089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1444 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept 14 (AFP)—French aid worker Xavier Lemire was freed here Thursday evening, nearly a month after he was captured by Afghan Government troops in southern Helmand Province.

"I am happy to be out, I am a little overcome. I only found out I was to be released about half an hour ago," Mr Lemire told journalists who met him after the government formally handed him over to French Government representative Didier Leroy at the Intercontinental Hotel here.

Mr Lemire, 36, was smiling and in apparent good health. He was dressed in hospital pajamas and said he still had a dressing on one of the three bullet wounds he suffered in an ambush by government troops August 14.

A fellow worker of Handicap International, a humanitarian organization which treats war wounded in Afghanistan and elsewhere in he world, Vincent Gernigon, 24, was killed in the same ambush.

The government said Mr Lemire was released following a request from French President Francois Mitterrand and United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

Najibullah Decree on Release

LD1409165789 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] A decree issued by the president of Afghanistan about the discontinuation of criminal proceedings and release of Xavier Lemire, a citizen of the Republic of France:

In consideration of humanitarian aspects and in view of the historic relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of France, and on the basis of a formal demand by Francois Mitterrand, president of the Republic of France, as well as a personnel demand His Excellency Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, made in Belgrade during a visit with the high-ranking delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan, I hereby approve the discontinuation of criminal proceedings and the release of Xavier Lemire, a citizen of the Republic of France who entered the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan with an armed extremist group and was subsequently arrested during a combat operation.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan

Lemire Holds News Conference

LD1409174589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] In consideration of humanitarian values, and in view of the historic relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Republic of France, and on the basis of a formal request by Francois Mitterrand, president of France, as well as the personal request of Perez de Cuellar, UN secretary general, during the visit of the high ranking delegation of Afghanistan to Belgrade, esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, has approved a decree on the release of Xavier Lemire, a French citizen.

The military section of the BIA reported that Xavier Lemire, a French citizen, who had entered the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan together with an armed extremist group, this morning was officially handed over to Didier Leroy, representative of the French Foreign Ministry by the acting head of consulate affairs of the Afghan Foreign Ministry.

After his release, Xavier Lemire answered questions from foreign journalists and expressed full satisfaction with his treatment by the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, especially after his injury during a combat operation involving the armed extremist groups.

The representative of the French Foreign Ministry and Xavier Lemire expressed their gratitude to the authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan for the decree on Xavier Lemire's release.

Najibullah Addresses Jowzjan Infantry Troops

LD1409043289 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Speech by President Najibullah, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, to the officers and men of the Jowzjan infantry at Golkhana Palace on 12 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed friends and heroic comrades!

I have always wanted to meet in person the heroic men, NCO's, and officers of the 53d division, because the personnel of your unit—from the men to the division commander—are an example of enormous bravery, courage, and self-sacrifice. I am informed fully and in detail about your heroic accomplishments, from the begining of your activities in Jowzjan to the present moment. I see victory, enormous faith, stability, bravery, and self-sacrifice in the face of each of you. I am delighted and proud to meet you. I am aware of your unit's actions in Jowzjan, Qandahar, Khowst, Balkh, Salang, the Sarowbi road, Kabul, and other regions of the country.

Dear friends, our country is awaiting its destiny. Foes and friends are looking at our country. All expect that this time, too, the Afghans will defend their Afghanism, homeland, honor, pride, freedom, and independence, as they always have emerged victorious from the tests of history. All of you know that our country is under the aggression from Pakistan and the United States. The Alliance of Seven chieftains, who are puppets at the hand of the Pakistani intelligence service, wanted to continue their life under the pretext of continuing fratricidal war and bloodshed in the country. You are aware that the extremists, with direct assistance of Pakistan's Armed Forces, began an aggression against Nangarhar which was shamefully defeated. Victory on the Nangarhar front was not achieved easily. The extremists used all their human, material, and spiritual possibilities. The enemy's weapons—to a wide extent—were supplied by Pakistan. The Armed Forces of Pakistan assisted the extremists with all their heavy weapons. They had a plan to occupy Jalalabad within 3 hours or a maximum of 3 days, and to install their created-in-Pakistan government there. They wanted to install a puppet government in Jalalabad. They did not take into account the Afghanism, bravery, pride, honor, patriotism, and fighting capability of the Afghans. They did not believe that the blood of honor and pride flows in your bodies. [passage omitted]

The extremists under the protection of Pakistan, the United States, and Saudi Arabia, are exerting pressure on Zabol, Qandahar, and heroic Khowst so as to destroy the people's determination to defend their territorial integrity and independence. However, the people have chosen their path. Our people have determined not to let any Punjabi tread upon the sanctity of their pure soil, beloved Afghanistan. [applause] They will not let the Wahhabis insult their religion and holy places. With such determination they continue their struggle against the extremists, who have endangered the country's freedom, independence, territorial integrity, and Islam.

Dear comrades, speaking of peace, we have announced the national reconciliation policy and have hoisted the flag of peace from among tears and blood. War is enough, we said, let us come and sit together as brothers and solve our differences through talks, understanding, and the customs of Afghanistan, by meetings and Jergas, and without foreign interference. We also will distribute the government authority fairly, hold elections, and respect the people. This is how we will act. We addressed the commanders inside the country saying: You have felt closely the pain and torture of war; you took up positions in the forefront of battle and sacrifice. Let us now come and restore peace and security in your regions. Let the people resume their normal lives. However, the chieftains of the Alliance of Seven, who see their personal, political, group, and local interests in the continuation of war, gave a negative reply to the demand of the people. [passage omitted]

The people of our country and the peoples of the world saw that the announcement of the peace policy from our side was not due to our weakness. This fact has been proven by the developments of the past 7 months. The hue and cry by the extremists along with the Western mass media in connection with the collapse of the state of the Republic of Afghanistan in a period of a few days, weeks, or months, was proved hollow, with the help of God and with the strength and resistance of the people and the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan, of which you heroic personnel of the 53d unit are a part. The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan proved that no heretical force can face our heroic Armed Forces. [passage omitted]

Dear friends, the situation in the country is such that it demands from us work, activity, courage, and greater and greater sacrifices. Struggle against the existing situation in the country and against the plans of Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United States demand further work and struggle from you. You should make more efforts toward enhancing combat-readiness. Military training should be pursued seriously. Every one of you should be turned into unique commandos. You should employ such skill in the use of your weapons that its equal does not exist in the world. At present, you can surmount heights with speed, but pursuing Pakistanis and Punjabis demands further speed of you. [applause]

In our turn, we will try to give more help, better weapons, and improved conditions for training and education. From among your officers the most skilled generals of the Army of Afghanistan should be made, and from among your troops the most outstanding officers of the Army should be brought into being. [passage omitted]

It was due to the heroic defense of you personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan that the world now stands on the side of the state of Afghanistan and supports the national reconciliation policy. This is a great achievement. Victories, in fact, belong to all of you. We should always keep aloft the proud flag of the Republic of Afghanistan and let the black, red, and green flag be hoisted forever at the side of free countries. [applause]

Those who are attempting the amalgamation of Afghanistan into Pakistan should know that they will take their sinister aspirations to their graves and will be condemned to eternal failure.

As in the past, the freedom of the country has been maintained through the self-sacrifice of its children. Now, too, safeguarding the freedom of the homeland requires the sacrifice and courage of its children. We, the children of this homeland, are ready and prepared for such sacrifices. You have rendered and are rendering this historical necessity on time, and by sacrificing your lives. I completely believe that you will eliminate the enemy of the faith and of the homeland with shouts of: God is great! [applause and shouts] God is with us, right is with us, so the Afghan people and you heroes inevitably will be victorious! [applause]

Successes Against Rebel Groups Reported

LD1409152789 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] A source in the Armed Forces has told the military section of BIA that units taking part in combat operations in Khowst Major District have consolidated their forward trenches and foiled enemy attacks involving armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahabis. In the course of defensive combat operations by the units, 36 of the enemy were killed and 15 wounded. Ten enemy heavy weapons, two trucks carrying weapons and ammunition, and a tank were destroyed. Of the enemy's dead 5 were Saudi Wahabis.

According to another report, units of the Armed Forces repulsed attacks launched by armed extremists on a security post in Zabol Province. The report adds that units in Nangarhar Province are engaged in consolidating their defense trenches and a unit which carried out a combat operation near Samarkheyl, brought pressure on the enemy along two heights and pushed it back.

In the course of mopping-up operations by the units, 35 armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahabis were killed and 37 wounded. A number of heavy weapons and three transport vehicles belonging to them were destroyed. As a result of heavy-weapons fire by the enemy, 10 members of the Armed Forces were wounded.

Another report says that the Armed Forces in Herat Province exerted pressure on an enemy assembly point outside the city. As a result of artillery and air strikes heavy losses of life were inflicted on the armed extremists and Pakistani militarists.

Bangladesh

Iran's Velayati Meets Ershad, Foreign Minister

BK1409131489 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Bangladesh and Iran have decided to set up a joint ministerial commission with the aim of further strengthening and promoting the fraternal relations to their mutual benefit. The decision emerged during an hour-long talk that the two countries had covering the entire gamut of bilateral ties in Dhaka on Thursday. Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud led the Bangladesh side to the talks, while the visiting Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, headed his country's side.

At the end of the talks two foreign ministers signed a memorandum of understanding for setting up the joint ministerial commission. The commission will meet at least once a year alternately in Tehran and Dhaka.

The visiting Iranian foreign minister, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, paid a courtesy called on President Ershad in Dhaka today. Dr Velayati apprised President Ershad of the latest situation regarding the Iran-Iraq peace negotiation. They also discussed bilateral, regional and global issues. Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud and Iranian Ambassador to Bangladesh Mohammad Ganchi were present.

Cooperation Accord Signed

LD1409204189 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Dhaka, Sept. 14, IRNA—Iran and Bangladesh Thursday decided to set up a joint ministerial commission aimed at further strengthening and promoting the fraternal relations for the mutual benefits of the two Islamic countries.

The decision to form the commission was contained in a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed here following talks held between the visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Bangladeshi counterpart Anisul Islam Mahmud.

"We had an excellent meeting, we discussed our bilateral relationship, we discussed ways and means of increasing our trade and we hope Dr Velayati's visit will strengthen our relations in future", Mr Mahmud told IRNA.

An official press release issued by Bangladesh Foreign Office after the talks said the two sides held discussions on wide ranging subjects including the global political and economic scenario. The two sides apprised each other of the respective positions on different global issues.

The joint commission [JMC] to be formed as per MOU will explore the possibilities of cooperation in political, economic, commercial, scientific, technical and cultural fields between the two countries. It (JMC) will meet at least once every year alternatively in Tehran and Dhaka.

Dr Velayati who arrived here Wednesday evening from Kuala Lumpur leading a ten member delegation, earlier in the day called on Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad at the president's office. President Ershad was apprised of the latest situation regarding Iran-Iraq peace negotiations by Dr Velayati, BSS reported. The two also discussed bilateral, regional and global issues.

Dr Velayati told newsmen on arrival that "ties between two important Muslim countries Iran and Bangladesh are important for Islamic unity". He noted both Tehran and Dhaka work in close concert in the Non-Aligned Movement, the United Nations and other international forums for world peace and stability.

The two sides expressed satisfaction at the state of their relationship and agreed to explore further avenues of cooperation in various fields.

The present international situation particularly issues like Afghanistan, Lebanon and Palestine and Iran-Iraq peace talks under the UN secretary general's auspices were reviewed.

Dr Velayati gave a resume of the present situation of Iran-Iraq peace talks and expressed readiness of his government to continue its efforts under UN secretary general to arrive at a settlement for establishing durable peace in the region.

Bangladesh foreign minister expressed the hope that Iran and Iraq will "continue their endeavours to come closer through negotiations for the sake of a comprehensive, just and durable peace in the region."

He also praised the progress and prosperity achieved by Iran since the Islamic Revolution.

Mr Mahmud said the visit of Dr Velayati will go a long way in further cementing the bonds of fraternal relations that so happily exist between the two countries and peoples.

Pakistan Asked To Repatriate Stranded Nationals

BK1409150589 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Sep 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Stranded Pakistanis"]

[Text] Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, President of Pakistan Democratic Party (PDP), now visiting Dhaka, has been as positive as possible in offering the assurance that the process of repatriation of quarter of a million stranded non-locals from Bangladesh to Pakistan would be soon stepped up. For understandable reasons, the Nawabzada did not suggest a time frame, and this might come as a disappointment to leaders of the refugee community. But the President of the PDP is a responsible leader whose utterances—a pledge in this case—cannot be taken lightly. Besides, we may well assume that his assurance enjoyed the backing not only of the government of Benazir Bhutto but also of the provincial administration of Punjab where, he said, the repatriated Pakistanis would be resettled.

The case of the stranded Pakistanis who originally hailed from the state of Bihar in India is a pretty straightforward one. At the end of the Liberation War, leading to the birth of Bangladesh, their number stood at six lakh. Barring a small number who chose to live here as citizens of the new state, all wanted to move to Pakistan, the country to which they owed their allegiance. Their repatriation was only a question of time, not a matter of dispute between Dhaka and Islamabad. The process of repatriation actually started in October 1974 only to slow down to a trickle. By the end of 1986, the number of stranded Pakistanis stood at 2.5 lakh.

No one, least of all any official of the government of Bangladesh, is pleased with the way these stranded Pakistanis have managed to survive all these years. The authorities here set up some 66 camps to accommodate these unfortunate victims of history. Conditions in these camps are anything but ideal. In fact, they are pathetic, over-crowding and inadequate sanitation being two main complaints. Yet, it goes to the credit of the successive governments in Bangladesh that they have continued to meet a major portion of expenses incurred for these camps. Just the recurring cost of maintaining the physical facilities of the camps comes to over 16 crores every year. As expected, the Nawabzada has gratefully acknowledged the assistance provided to these stranded Pakistanis by the government of Bangladesh.

The renewed hope for speeding up the process of repatriation is linked to the reorganisation of the Rabitat Trust Fund which is said to have raised some $300 million to meet the cost of the exercise. According to the visiting Pakistani leader, the sudden death of General Ziaul Haq who was the co-chairman of the Fund along with Prince Talal of Saudi Arabia caused a halt to the programme. Now, with the appointment of Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Ali Khan as the Chairman of the Trust, the process can be expedited. All this is plausible. On the other hand, it is more than likely

that the rising ethnic tension, leading to widespread violence, in Karachi and in parts of Sind which were originally earmarked as the "new homes" of the stranded Pakistanis caused Islamabad to drag its feet. Not surprisingly, therefore, it is now Punjab which is mentioned by the Nawabzada as the likeliest location for the rehabilitation of the repatriated returnees.

For the Rabitat Trust Fund as well as for the Government of Pakistan, it is a major undertaking, involving a high cost, complicated travel facilities and a well thought-out rehabilitation programme at the other end. The Nawabzada has warned against expectations that the whole process can be completed quickly. Nevertheless, he must appreciate that all efforts must be made to speed up the exercise within a reasonably tight time frame in the best interest of all concerned. It is high time Pakistan closed a sad chapter and, better late than never, earned the gratitude of quarter of a million refugees who desperately want to go home.

Communist Party Said To Face 'Inner Conflicts'

BK1409151789 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Sep 89 p 1

[Text] The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) [is] faced with inner conflicts on certain political and ideological questions, sources close to the party said, reports UNB [UNITED NEWS OF BANGLADESH].

Simmering conflicts within the party, sources said, deepened further with the sudden resignation of a top leader of the party, Manzurul Ahsan Khan, from the CPB Secretariat on September 2.

They further said that sharp inner party contradictions on questions of forging left unity, broad-based united movement and CPB's role in the Awami League dominated Eight-Party Alliance led to Khan's resignation from the party Secretariat.

Party sources said Khan's resignation had not yet been accepted. The CPB Central Committee meeting which begins on October 8, will discuss his resignation and take action as per party constitution.

Sources said Manzurul Ahsan Khan a hardiner and also a critic of the present Soviet policy of 'Perestroyka' and Glasnost might take a fresh initiative for forging a left front comprising the United Communist League components of the Five-Party Alliance NAP [National Awami Party] and the Samyabadi Dal [Party].

When contacted Khan told UNB he would not desert CPB nor would he join any other left party. He however, admitted that differences of opinion on party policy and strategy compelled him to tender resignation from the Central Secretariat.

He observed that the party's present leadership had failed to take pragmatic steps in building an effective left front as per resolution of the last party Congress.

He also though that CPB had failed to uphold its independent thinking in decision-making of the Eight-Party Alliance on various issues, virtually playing second fiddle to Awami League.

India

Rajiv Gandhi Interviewed at Belgrade Summit

PM1509100089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Sep 89 p 4

[Report on interview with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by Zaki Shihab in Belgrade; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] Belgrade, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has urged that the Nonaligned Movement's efforts be focused on securing an international economic system that will resolve the problems of both poor and rich states.

This came in a short interview with him conducted in Belgrade by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, in which he emphasized that, despite the end of the cold war atmosphere, international conditions still necessitate the the Nonaligned Movement's existence, especially since the cold war mentality still exist within many circles. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on his government's position on developments in recent efforts to secure a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem, Rajiv Gandhi expressed his appreciation of President 'Arafat's efforts, which he described as huge and courageous and good steps, but added that Israel has not responded to the Palestinian and Arab peace initiatives. The Indian prime minister stressed his personal willingness to do all that President 'Arafat requires of him. [passage omitted]

On ways of resolving the Afghan crisis and the effect of its continuation on Indian-Pakistani relations, Gandhi said: "We in India support a political solution of the Afghan problem, that is, one achieved through dialogue, not violence. Our backing for the present regime will continue, though undoubtedly that crisis is one of the issues on which our views differ with the Pakistani Government's position. But despite that, we are trying to improve relations in many other fields." [passage omitted]

Gandhi Government Termed 'Ad Hoc, Arrogant'

BK1309055989 Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Sep 89 p 5

[Text] Chandigarh, Sept 4 (UNI)—Janata Dal general secretary Maneka Gandhi [sister-in-law of Rajiv Gandhi] today described the Rajiv Gandhi government as "total ad hoc and arrogant" in its attitude towards the people.

Talking to newsmen at a 'meet the press' programme at the Press Club here, she said every policy of the Rajiv Gandhi government reflected either lack of study or concern about the problems of the people.

The present government at the Centre had the lowest record in human rights protection and India had been condemned all over the world on this score, she charged.

Replying to a question about the Punjab problem, she said most of the people in the state felt that the confrontation was between the people and the Government. The state had been run by police which had turned itself into a 'lawless band', she alleged.

She said if the Janata Dal came into power at the Centre, state terrorism would go and the faith of the people would be restored.

Ruling out any dialogue with the terrorist leadership to solve the Punjab tangle if the Janata Dal was voted to power at the Centre, Mrs Maneka Gandhi said the dialogue would be held with all responsible citizens belonging to all communities in the state.

Replying to a question about the possibility of postponement of the Lok Sabha elections, she said it would be "very bad" of the Congress government if the Centre postponed the elections because it would be seen as a further sign of its 'weakness'.

Answering a question about punishing those involved in the November 1984 riots, she said there was evidence that some leaders, who were now in the Union cabinet, had been identified as leading groups of people in the riots and they still continued to enjoy power. Such people should certainly be brought to book and all riot victims rehabilitated.

She demanded setting up of a human rights court to look into the activities of the police in Punjab during the last five years. There were thousands of people who had been victimised in the state during this period, she alleged.

Mrs Gandhi said Union Ministers H.K.L. Bhagat and Jagdish Tytler Congress MP [member of Parliament], Sajjan Kumar and number of Congress councillors of Delhi had been condemned by various human rights organisations for their alleged role in the November riots in the national Capital.

Commenting on the performance of Punjab Governor S.S. Ray she said the people in the state say that in every circumstance he was allegedly behind provoking and working to increase tension in the state. His role in the state was not at all admirable, she opined.

She said Mr Ray was not within his constitutional rights to write to Haryana Chief Minister accusing the latter of inciting the people of his state on the eve of the 'Bharat bundh' [all India strike] day to detain trains and vehicular traffic.

Mrs Maneka Gandhi said that by accusing the Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Ray had increased the gap between the Haryana and Punjab governments. Governors all over the country had become arms of the Prime Minister rather than of the President.

When asked whether the Janata Dal, if it came to power would reopen the Bofors gun deal issue, she said not only the Bofors issue but all major contracts awarded to foreign firms for 'consideration' by the present government would be probed.

Replying to a question about the infighting in the Janata Dal, she said it was a new party in which people had come from different cultures and background. The main reason for the infight was the emphasis on positions. This question could be decided after the Lok Sabha election, she added.

Discussions Continue on Withdrawal, Cease-Fire

BK1409130989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Discussions are continuing between India and Sri Lanka on the withdrawal of Peacekeeping Force [PKF] and related matters. This was stated by the External Affairs Ministry spokesman in New Delhi today. He was replying to queries from newsmen about the expected joint communique on the subject.

The spokesman declined to comment on any substantive matter likely to figure in the joint communique. However, he clarified about the possibility of an open-ended cease-fire by PKF in the northeast. He said while there is no specific period or deadline for the cease-fire, there are certain conditions which invariably accompany any suspension of offensive military operations. If such conditions are violated or breached, then action would be taken by PKF.

Army Called To Quell Disturbance in Rajasthan

BK1509030089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] In Rajasthan, the Army has been called out to quell the disturbance in Kota town. Eight persons were killed and 60 injured following violent incidents in the town last night. An indefinite curfew has been clamped in some parts of the town. The trouble started when a procession being taken out by a group of people was challenged by another group. A number of shops were also set ablaze. Senior police officials have rushed to Kota to assess the situation.

Extradition Agreement Signed With Pakistan

BK1509082489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] India and Pakistan have worked out modalities to track down and hand over persons wanted in criminal

cases in either country. The Central Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Investigation Agency of Pakistan signed an agreement to this effect in New Delhi recently.

Editorial on Pakistan's Political Situation

BK1309061189 Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Ms Bhutto Troubles"]

[Text] The situation has turned difficult for Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto. Aside from several simultaneous pressures she has been required to fight off almost since her election, Ms Bhutto is now faced with two developments which must add to her many problems. The first is an eruption of differences with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan over selecting a successor to Admiral Sirohey, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, and the second is her Pakistan People's Party's [PPP] defeat by over 30,000 votes in the Sheikhpura byelection for the Punjab assembly. The opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance, which rules Punjab, has taken the seat. More than this electoral set-back, it is the tussle over the top military post which has serious implications for Ms Bhutto's civilian government. In her capacity as the Defence Minister, Ms Bhutto thinks that it is her job to select a man for the top military post: The President claims it as his prerogative of "discretionary powers" the constitutional amendment pushed through by the Zia regime gives him. The problem emanates from Ms Bhutto's efforts to assert supremacy of the civilian government and hark back to the days of her late father's short-lived democratic regime. The tangle cannot resolve itself quickly because Ms Bhutto's government has a tenuous hold on the power structure. The US unease over Ms Bhutto's moves towards Afghanistan and India too appears to have set off new pressures. US Ambassador Robert Oakley's public pronouncements on the need for Pakistan to be "tough" with India have given a handle to those accusing Ms Bhutto of "going soft" on India. A sizable section of the PPP castigated the Ambassador for his "undiplomatic utterances". Yet, the low key reception Ms Bhutto gave Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Islamabad in July attests to the existence of deep divisions within her own party over India. Ms Bhutto has a difficult situation on her hands. It is to be seen how she faces up to the domestic and external pressures.

Spokesman on Import of Satellite Equipment

BK1409155689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that India is importing radiation hardened microprocessor devices for the INSAT-2 satellite program from the United States under an agreement approved by the two governments. He said the INSAT-2 satellite program is an indigenous effort and it has been designed to enhance India's capabilities in communications, meteorology, and broadcasting.

The spokesman was referring to a press report carrying an insinuation that India has been involved in a clandestine effort to procure these devices. He said the report is baseless, tendentious, slanted, and uninformed. Such stories only serve the interests of those who have an ulterior motive of maligining India.

Paper on U.S. President's Anti-Drug Strategy

BK1409100589 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 8 Sep 89 p 11

[Editorial: "All-out U.S. War on Drugs"]

[Text] President Bush has kept his word given to the American electorate last year during his Presidential campaign. He has now waged an all-out war on narcotics. In his first TV address to the nation in his seven months in the White House, he proposed a $8 billion national drug strategy to fight narcotics trafficking at home and "beyond our borders...." The four basic components spelt out by the US President are tougher law enforcement to see that drug-sellers are caught, prosecuted and punished; a $2 billion aid programme to three Latin American countries, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia; a stepped-up drug treatment plan to help addicts and a major anti-drug education programme in schools and local communities. Time and again the US President had vowed to take on the drug kingpins both at home and abroad. Last month he lent his moral and material support to Colombian President Barco, who, against heavy odds, enforced a major crackdown on drug warlords. While underground drug leaders unleashed a wave of terror in Colombian towns, the authorities held their ground primarily because President Bush rushed military equipment and anti-drug experts to assist local law enforcement officials.

Mr Bush has assured the Colombian President that on request he would even despatch American troops to fight drug operators. But more than the external menace, President Bush's major problem is internal: to wean away addicts from narcotics and to unearth local cartels which are hand-in-glove with their Latin American counterparts. One reason why the US Government is so keen on drug gang leaders' extradition from their native soil is to force them to spill the beans about their US connection. President Bush is convinced that once the Latin American drug connection is snapped it would be possible to contain the menace from within. But past experience has shown that drug cartels have a way of resurfacing no matter how hard they are hit. The President has warned the Americans that no one among them is out of harm's way. Ironically, the opposition Democratic Party is not impressed by the President's tough measures. Only time will tell how effective the measures are.

Iran

ETTELA'AT Publishes Sirjani Commentary

NC1409160089 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 21 Aug 89 pp 2, 15

[Sa'idi Sirjani commentary: "The Future, Important Decisions, and What We Should Know"]

[Text] [ETTELA'AT note] An article written by Mr Sa'idi Sirjani, a prudent writer who is inured to pain and at the same time quite restrained, is being presented from among his writings following the dissemination of the important and weighty utterances of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani at his oath-taking ceremonies. In his article the writer, while welcoming the president's remarks, has reviewed the country's current problems and difficulties and deemed these remarks a source of hope and satisfaction for all the lovers of their Islamic nation.

While expressing thanks for the kindness of the esteemed writer, we present the complete text of his article below without any changes. It is obvious that the presentation of the following article does not constitute ETTELA'AT newspaper's concurrence with all the writer's views. Of course, we reflect views by various thinkers and by feeling and perceptive people because despite all problems they have not chosen to exile themselves but continue to remain loyal to the revolution. We desire their success to increase each day. We draw the attention of our dear readers to the following article by Mr Sirjani:

[Sirjani's note] ETTELA'AT newspaper: Salutations and greetings. I thought that if I handed my article in for typing, I would have been forced to review it again and might have made changes in the manuscript that would detract from the clarity of the text. I know that my writings have not been published yet. If you wish, you may retain a photocopy at the office of the ETTELA'AT version, but please send the original back to me at the address given. It may thus be known that there are some in the country among all those clamor-loving extremists who with all their heart and soul are supporters of those who are moderate-natured and sensible. Yours truly, Sa'idi Sirjani. [end note]

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's speech yesterday really shook me, and I am certain that many groups chose to remain silent or were lulled into silence because it had quite an effect. The echoes of the words of this wise person of the desert had such an effect on the hypocrisy-stricken ears of someone like me that I considered it sinful to remain silent. I hope that the majority of those who endured tribulations as a result of the horrifying corruption of the Aryamehr regime and had been writing and striving for establishing a just Islamic government and had been astonished at the futile extremism that they had witnessed in the past few years will break their silence and rise in support of the voice of truth, regardless of which throat it emanates from.

A definite majority in the Iranian nation are enamored of an Islamic government because of their traditional bonds as well as their family upbringing, and if we were to probe into the very depths of those who are not very regular in their prayers and who perpetrate acts of corruption and debauchery and probably even indulge in drinking, we would see that they prefer to see the reins of their government in the hands of a pious person who would shy away from sin instead of in the hands of a notorious and depraved profligate. If tomorrow you were to ask the most corrupt parents in society whether they wished their children to be sent to a school with strong moral regulations and so have their children's training far removed from religious hypocrisy or lecherous and tainted individuals, you would see how natural and deep-rooted decency supersedes all carnal desires.

Ninety percent of the people who spilled onto the streets and alleys and toppled the Aryamehr regime were those who had reached the end of their endurance at the farce of the Shiraz art festival and the ugly spectacle of the peddlars of coquetry. They had witnessed the flirtations of secretaries with bosses and directors, and this had ignited fires of indignation in them. How could such people have any opposition to the rule of piety and Islamic justice? Such people are infatuated with the idea of a government based on morality.

The majority of the Iranian people recall the decadent, foolish, and sinful era of Western domination and the unholy vote by the accursed Majlis for the approval of the colonialist law of "capitulation" [preceding word in English] which considered a servant of an American sergeant higher than the country's shah. Yes. That inauspicious past is unforgettable. Even if it were, it would not be forgotten so easily. With all its heart and soul this nation is opposed to the influence and domination of the United States. However, after years of destructive experience it has also realized that the way to struggle against U.S. domination is not by clenching fists and shouting slogans.

The United States is a capitalist country. In a capitalistic system, all success is measured in material terms. The capitalist is primarily a money-worshipper. People who are money-worshippers easily measure all moral values and social positions by the yardstick of wealth and reciprocate in the same terms; the only consideration is the rise or fall in prices. In a materialistic system, every capitalist seeks a wealthy and neurotic person who will make him a target of his insults so that he can take him to court and be awarded reparations. A money-loving person hopes that his family members will not meet their end peacefully in their beds but will instead be killed by bullets or an axe so that he may be awarded blood money.

A capitalist government has the same characteristics. It prays that three or four of its citizens will be taken hostage so that it might draw world attention to its misery by means of calculated and premeditated propaganda and so that it will be able to aggress against

another country's territory. It is a most pitiful kind of simplicity, if we were to be deceived by the paving of such ground by Mr "Bush" who says he cannot sleep peacefully because of his sadness over the hostages. In a country where every day hundreds of people wallow in blood and dust by the roadside after being stabbed by black-skinned extortionists, no one is thinking of any remedies despite an abundance of resources at their disposal. So how can the capture of three or four people arouse such a wave of indignation?

The hue and cry raised by the United States reminds me of a scene we have witnessed on numerous occasions on the country's streets: In the city precincts, children of various sizes belonging to those whose only accomplishment is to produce children without giving any thought to feeding them or their upbringing or future, can be seen wallowing in the mud and perhaps consider the streets their playground. These children have been consigned to their fate and do not seem to have any definite parents or a definite vocation. But God save us from that moment when one of these children jumps in the middle of the street in the path of an unfortunate driver and a bumper or fender of the car strikes the child. Then a mother, a father, an aunt, and uncles seem to rise up from the earth or descend from the skies and create such wailing and crying that it melts even a heart of stone. This moaning continues until the unfortunate driver pays reparations in order to save his life. Then the situation returns to normal, that is, the same situation of parentless, vagabond children.

The way to combat a colonialist, capitalistic country is not to hurl invectives at it or call it names, or to take people as hostages. It wants three or four of its citizens to be taken hostage for some days so that it can embezzle billions of dollars, which it has accumulated from a country. No justice-loving individual can even raise an eyebrow during an international tribunal's proceedings.

It is the bitter truth, but there is no choice but to be aware of it and declare that by merely saying "Death to America" the United States neither dies nor decreases its aggression or injustice. The path to combat this man-eating colossus is not to shout slogans or resort to emotional acts.

Today, it is because of the abundant natural resources and unlimited foreign exchange earnings that the best brains and the elite planners of the world of diplomacy are at the disposal of this preponderance-seeking giant. In a war with such an enemy, the most ineffective weapons are displays of emotion and sentiment.

Our nation can inflict its greatest damage on the U.S. capitalist system by formulating a well-planned scheme and a wise program to wean it from any need for U.S. products. Why has anger drawn such a blood-drenched curtain before the eyes of the tyrannized nation that we are unaware of the sages of the world and of the meaningful smile that is curving the corners of their lips when they observe that while we shout our slogans of "Death to America," columns of smoke from Winston cigarettes dance in the air? They see that we claim to be combating the United States while some of our people's needs are being met by using American goods, bought not directly or at moderate prices but by means of various middlemen and at prices many times higher than the original.

I know that the youth are still brimming with fervor and that when they hear this fact, their blood will boil and they will say "Come, let us boycott all American goods." Something about which we shouted slogans for many years did not materialize and in many cases was not very practical, as the world is an arena of realities not for emotional, lyrical scenes! We cannot return the people of our contemporary, closely linked world to the life of 100 years ago. A flood which has traversed a riverbed cannot be returned to a "stream." Anyone who has used a vacuum cleaner or washing machine, or has tried air travel will find it impossible to return to the past. Even if he were to do so it would be a temporary trend, and of course, most unwise. The world has changed, and people cannot be prevented from desiring a comfortable life.

Although extremism is an essential trait of a revolution, if the true criminal, the United States, had not given Saddam a green light, if a futile and destructive war had not taken place, if the simple-mindedness which caused this war to peak had not continued, if we had been successful in utilizing our abundant resources and immense potential for creating industries instead of purchasing second- and third-hand military equipment, and if we had mobilized our efficient dedicated manpower in the fields and factories for production and innovation, we would have been able to be indifferent to any need for purchasing a few American commodities. We would also have succeeded in our struggle against the United States! Alas! Alas!

Do not be mistaken. All Muslim Iranians desire the proud banner of Islam to be hoisted above the dome of the world. We are all disgusted with world apostasy. However, we are also attentive to this point, which is worth pondering: There is a way of doing everything and most important, every mammoth and hazardous task should be tackled step by step.

When the Islamic government can become the nucleus of the Islamic world and the stimulant for those seeking Islam who see that the Iranian nation has progressed under its aegis and has attained justice, security, and welfare and that corruption-spawning penury has moved its inauspicious shadow away from society and that the number of criminal dossiers has decreased in the judicial tribunals, and above all, the spirit of leniency and consideration of the people has illuminated the country's atmosphere, that will be the time for a country and government to claim leadership of the world and to attract the world's people to follow it. We do not know whether we have taken any steps in this direction in the past years and whether we are any closer to this sublime objective or not!

In general, the Iranian nation has realized through experience that necessarily concomitant with every revolution and uprising is bloodshed and disruption of the situation. Before its eyes are the condition and black fate of Lebanon. Because of its conciliatory nature, the Iranian nation refrains from fanning any differences, and for this reason it is ready to endure a "bearable" despotism and not to drag the country into a state of turmoil. However, the vice of despotism is that it does not recognize any borders and so brings the situation to a flashpoint. When a country hears from its president's tongue that despotic tactics are not lasting, the light of hope appears on the horizon of the future before it and fresh life pulsates in it.

The latest speech by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani had a different effect on the hearts in different ways, like clear drops of rain. It made many optimistic about the country's future and many others pessimistic.

The pessimistic ones are limited to a few in the various groups headed by those who are impostors who have reaped political capital from the situation—and what political capital! They will not take it lying down. If it comes to pass that order returns and the Iranian nation reaps the benefits of the blessings of equality and justice, then what will be the fate of those who for years have sold scores of Peykan automobiles and hundreds of freezers, television sets, and refrigerators over the past few years at 10 times the original prices? Can the loss of incomes to the tune of 10,000 to 100,000 tumans daily be easily ignored

If it so happens that we can avail ourselves of the expertise and knowledge of the honest and noble ones who have exiled themselves for fear of their safety and are engaged in the most prestigious scientific institutes of the world, then what will become of those who lack aptitude, knowledge, and proficiency and who have usurped scientific and specialized positions in the country?

If it so happens that we build the foundations on honesty of action and that in order to uphold human values we refrain from encroaching on others' rights, what will become of those thieves and criminals who have falsely donned the garb of officials of organizations and who raid people's houses and descend upon the inmates and torture them while the master of the house does not dare to complain?

If it is decided that the country is to be administered with sagacity and moderation and if opening the gates of content were to calm the people's fervor, then what would be the task of the position-seeking group with its wealth, which, of course, is legitimate. With the assistance of the chronic enemies of Iran who for years have carried on a campaign outside our borders and have toppled the government, verbally of course, 10 times every day on the radio and who are now lying in wait, this group is waiting for an opportunity to arise for them to ride on the waves of the "people's" sentiments. Their shadows, which are, of course, auspicious, should be extended on people like me.

More important and dangerous than this group is the faction which 2 months ago pushed the value of the dollar from 80 tumans to 140 tumans almost overnight in the hope of dismembering the country. By an onslaught on the shops and stores they transformed all their assets into essential goods. However, a swift and wise decision by the Experts set fire to their assets and in listening to the words of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the wounds of their despondency were inflamed anew. They will not sit quietly but will embark on a campaign, a dangerous and cowardly one. Tomorrow they will be mobilizing their lowly cohorts and by disseminating literature full of expletives will attempt to give the nation a taste of democracy and freedom. By tomorrow, they will hire some obscene tired-looking gypsies with gaudy clothes and vulgar make-up and will release them in the streets and then raise a hue and cry about lost honor and lost prestige. Soon they will be asking some foolish people to commit immoral and anti-Islamic acts so that they may be able to lament: Alas for Islam! Alas, the revolution! Thus they will retrieve their lost income.

All this is quite predictable, and it is hoped that the Iranian nation will be aware of these realities.

I repeat that the remarks by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani at his oath-taking ceremony found a place deep in my heart. Most important of these remarks was the sentence in his letter for introducing his cabinet ministers to the Majlis in which he mentioned the exaltation of "Iran." After years, I see a responsible ruler who is concerned with the limits of his power and wishes to put his house in order before reaching the pinnacles of the firmament.

[Dated] 17 August 1989. Tehran.

Commentary Answers Sirjani

NC0809215089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 22 Aug 89 p 2

[Commentary entitled: "Colonialism's Footsteps"]

[Excerpts] Those penpushers whose pens are filled with colonialist ink and whose mission is to pave the way for the surreptitious entry of colonialist culture, without its footsteps being heard, always include a prediction on how they think the national and Islamic forces—which are actually a dam in front of colonialism—will react to an issue so that they will have, first, warned these forces against any reaction and, second, have confronted a possible reaction if there is one.

The author of the article "A Point" [Nokteh] which was published on 21 August in the dear newspaper ETTELA'AT very expertly used this method and carried out his first test. Since the author is not a member of the ETTELA'AT staff, and our dear brothers in this newspaper have cleared themselves of any responsibility as to the contents of the article, we will naturally be addressing

the author and not our dear colleagues, even though our dear brothers too should be reminded that presenting such a person as someone who is full of sympathy and did not emigrate, despite all the problems, is rather unexpected. People like this author who question all the gains of the auspicious Islamic revolution and who overtly insult the sanctities of a people who have, througout the past years, given their all for the grandeur of our Islamic homeland and have defended the independence of this homeland against the plots and machinations of colonialists and their domestic mercenaries, are people without any respect. Their pens were never wielded in support of the nation, the homeland, and Islam and against the enemy during the years of the imposed war when this nation was the target of the missiles of colonialist powers; they will also never be used in the postwar era to write in support of the ideals of this oppressed nation which has suffered the greatest number of blows from mercenary penpushers. Therefore, is it not better for us not to consider the freedom that is given to colonialist pens as an example of freedom of thought and respect for the pen?

After this friendly and brotherly point made against our press colleagues, we will go on to discuss the main issue, which is the article that was published. We will first glance at the contents of the article and at its objectives, and then explain a few points. [passage omitted]

As far as the objectives of the article are concerned, we should say that several aims were pursued. Undoubtedly an article of this kind was written under the current circumstances with the following objectives in mind:

1. To question all the values of the revolution and inculcate the "point" that with the imam's demise, the era of the domination of the imam's ideas too has ended and, as the Western mass media's propaganda has it, "a new chapter" has opened in Iran's history.

2. To emphasize the point that the resistance of the nation in the face of the enemies' military aggression was a fruitless act which yielded nothing but destruction and backwardness.

3. To place a question mark over Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani by using the extremely delicate mask of support for him and by alleging that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's remarks were moving and that they encouraged those "people who have been either stricken with silence or who have been led to silence."

4. To foment a conflict among observers by starting a distracting debate and, especially, by setting the press at each other's throats.

5. In addition to all these, to test whether the time to criticize the values of the revolution or for opening the way for the infiltration of colonialist culture has come or not.

The possibilities that should be pointed out are:

1. Not only has the time for this author to carry out his test not come, but this gentleman and those who concur with him should know that the time for such tests will never come in Islamic Iran.

2. The press in the Islamic Republic of Iran is much too alert to fall into such traps. This is a wish that the mercenary penpushers will have to take to their graves with them. The children of the imam and of the revolution are always alert and they will never allow elements that have a mission to accomplish for the colonialists and their objectives to have their way.

3. The Iranian nation is very well acquainted with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and these machinations canot place a question mark over him. The people are well aware that Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's answer to such idle talk is identical to his remarks during his inauguration when he said that talk about the beginning of a new chapter in Iran is a plot, the flames of which are being fanned by the Western propaganda machinery, that our path is the imam's path and that the people participated in the elections in order to continue the imam's path.

4. The wishes of the said author will not materialize in the Islamic atmosphere of Iran. The Iranian people are proud of their decade of resistance against the plots by satanic powers and their domestic minions. As they proved in their farewell to their imam and by their vast participation in the referendum and the elections, they are determined to continue the path that they have chosen, and they are fully aware of the propaganda ploys by the colonialist agents. The people know that when a veteran penpusher wants to pursue the objectives of the United States in the atmosphere of revolutionary Iran, he should naturally carry out a sham defamation of the United States and of the shah so that he can fool his readers. But the time when the Iranian people could be fooled is definitely past.

RESALAT Rebuts Sirjani Article

NC1109123789 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Aug 89 p 2

[First of two parts of unattributed commentary entitled: "A Comment on 'A Point'"]

[Text] In the name of the Almighty. An article entitled "The Future, Important Decisions, and What We Should Know" was published in ETTELA'AT on 21 August 1989. This article very generously attempted a study of foreign policy, domestic policy, and national strategy in the past, and described the basic slogans of the revolution. It went so as far as to describe the record of the past leadership as ailing.

But apart from the contents of this article, which should be studied, there are two sensitive points which should be carefully viewed. They are:

A. The existence of two views portrayed as one, and

B. Reactions, impacts, and results.

The existence of two views portrayed as one: The author of this article alleges that the remarks by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the new president, impressed him so much that he was inspired to write the article. In connection with this, we should bear in mind the following delicate and basic points:

1. In this article, the basic views of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which are based on the main slogans of the revolution, are cited next to the views of the author himself. But this has been done in such a vague way that it is difficult for the reader to tell which views are the president's and which are the author's.

2. It should be noted that throughout his article the author attributes his analyses, comments, and views to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and tries to portray his reflections as the natural and analytical outcome of the views expressed by the president.

3. After analyzing the remarks by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the author has drawn his own conclusions on the so-called effects of past activities and on how past mistakes can be rectified. But he has done this in a way that makes the reader think that these are conclusions drawn by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

4. Basically it is always possible for two people to say the same thing but to have different intentions. For example, when it is said that "we should strive to establish extensive relations with all countries" this does not necessarily mean that we should trample on our Islamic slogans and ideals, as it does not necessarily mean that these principles and slogans are taken into account when this remark is made. But when we know people because of their past, apparently the remarks by such people are interpreted on the basis of what we know of their past and record. When we hear a remark from Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, whom we know so well, the picture that we get after the 10 years that have passed since the revolution is that whatever he says is within the framework of preserving the slogans and principles of the revolution and in our national interests. Therefore, any analysis contrary to this on the remarks by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani is undoubtedly either an intentional distortion or an idiotic sophistry.

5. The article should be regarded from the angle of how dangerous it is and how contrary it is to the trend of the revolution and its values. First of all, this article places a question mark over the values and principles of the revolution and over the tactics used by the late leader of the Islamic revolution. Second, this assessment and analysis of the past has been attributed to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani! Actually, the article was compiled in such a way as to portray support for principles and attack the president, since these ideas were attributed to the president! But if the article intended to defend the president and the principles of the revolution, then why was it entirely devoted to an attack on values which were, in turn, attributed to the president?

6. ETTELA'AT, a newspaper that belongs to the revolution and to the state and has always reflected the ideas of the high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, published this article. The question is: What made the officials of the newspaper allow the publication of an article which runs counter to the values of the revolution and against President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and what was the intention behind this?

It should be noted that in its introduction to the article, ETTELA'AT stated that "the publication of this article does not mean that ETTELA'AT supports the author's views." But the same introduction described the author as an intellectual who is well acquainted with and faithful to the revolution!

Does this not imply a confirmation of the views of the author?! And throughout the past 10 years, how many times has ETTELA'AT so liberally published such views that it may have set a precedent on the publication of such articles? If this article had been a mere expression of someone's views, it might not have created any problems. But attributing these views to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani does not conform with reality in any way.

However, the article was published in a mass circulation newspaper and it questioned the principles and slogans of the revolution. Moreover, these views were attributed to the president at the onset of his term in office and when he has presented a series of new policies that are aimed at preserving the revolution's principles and ideals. Now we should study reactions and their impacts and results!

Part Two of RESALAT Rebuttal

NC1109151189 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 26 Aug 89 p 2

[Second and last part of unattributed commentary entitled: "A Comment on 'A Point'"]

[Text] In the first part of our commentary, we discussed the contents of the article which was published in ETTELA'AT. We will now continue by discussing reactions to this article and its results and impacts.

B. Reactions and their impacts and results:

It was only natural that the publication of this article should have caused reactions. But the question is: Do all the reactions condemn the principle of allowing such an article to be published, or do they concern the article only and limit themselves to a criticism of its contents?

Naturally there were and will be various reactions by different people to the contents of the article. But we should not forget the basic fact that the contents of the article have been attributed to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. What the article implies is that the new president intends to alter principles, and the author has praised this as a "wise" step! The interesting point is that from the moment that the issue of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's candidacy was brought up, the West's propaganda

machinery tried to paint a picture of him as "someone who would demand a review of principles."

Actually this propaganda increased when Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke, within his capacity as president, about "reconstruction," "solving economic problems," "more motivation in foreign policy and the establishment of vast relations between Iran and the world," and "increased welfare services for the people."

Western propaganda has been and is such that it portrays these policies as a revision of the revolution's principles and a shift in the trend of the revolution, and then it attempts to portray Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as a moderate reformist.

The West has two major objectives where the Islamic Revolution of Iran is concerned with this type of propaganda. First of all, by painting a picture of Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani as someone whose policies are aimed at a revision of principles, the West poisons the domestic atmosphere against these policies. What can be achieved through this method is that plans and projects will not be successfully implemented, that public preparedness will be reduced, and that the revolutionary forces will lose their faith in Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. As a result, this will lead to disappointment in the revolution for the construction of a strong Iran which is needed for the confrontation by the world of Islam of world blasphemy. Meanwhile, if this is not achieved, at least a success will be scored in thrusting Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani into a political conflict and obliging him to defend his policies and persuade the deterrent forces not to obstruct his reforms.

The second intention behind the West's propaganda is to create individuals or groups that oppose Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. They will constitute an extremist or unreconciling force against the policies of reform and thus effectively destroy the atmosphere of national unity which is needed in order to achieve the lofty objectives of the new president.

We can thus see how this article was exactly within the framework of this propaganda of the West. In other words, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani is portrayed as a person who is calling for reforms. His policies are presented as steps to rectify the acts of the late leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, and the opponents of these policies are labelled as extremists or unwise persons.

It is because of this that criticizing only the contents of the article is tantamount to concentrating only on a part of the plot which is aimed at propagandizing the fact that the principles of the revolution are in the process of change, while ignoring the other and more important parts of the plot.

Unfortunately (?most of the comments on the article) are limited to a statement that the author's allegations on a change in the principles of the revolution have nothing to do with the president's views and that what is said in the article should not be attributed to Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. But not much is written about the fact that the policies and the programs of the new Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and of the president himself can be fully defended and are not at all contrary to the principles and ideals of the revolution or against national interests.

Therefore, in short, when analyzing and criticizing the article, four points should be taken into consideration:

1. It is unfitting and unrealistic to attribute the views expressed in the article to the president;

2. Not only are the policies and programs of the new government headed by Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani not against the principles and values of the revolution, but they are aimed at fulfilling the wishes of the Muslim Iranian nation and its revolutionary ideals;

3. Defending the principles and values of the revolution and the leadership of Imam Khomeyni is a (?firm) principle in which all the officials of the Islamic Republic believe, and (?changes) and the (?executive) [word indistinct] by the new president and government does not mean opposing the principles and ideals of the founder of the Islamic revolution, but [words indistinct] demanding new policies and their implementation.

4. Defending the past political-economic outlook and the past executive (?system) or attacking the new policies and programs do not mean, in any way, extremism in defending the principles of the reovlution and in safeguarding ideals. On the contrary, this kind of behavior, even if it is intended to criticize the article in question, will (?obstruct) national interests at this juncture in the political history of the Islamic Revolution.

In conclusion, it should be pointed out that the justification used by the officials of ETTELA'AT on the propagation of freedom of thought and the presentation of different views in publishing this article is very mistaken, because the red line of freedom in the press as clarified in the Constitution and the press law does not extend beyond the point where the values of the revolution are questioned. This is because the emergence of doubts on principles is tantamount to doubting the Islamic Republic of Iran which we all defend.

It is therefore fitting that ETTELA'AT should use the freedom of press that exists, carry out a correct analysis of the article in question, and thus clarify its stand.

We advise that the above four points be taken into consideration when analyzing this. The fact that the publication of the article (?served) the West's motives should not be ignored. What should be criticized is not the mistake that was made. What should be undertaken is a correct analysis and the presentation of directives to the noble Iranian nation on the intentions behind such attacks by the United States and behind world plots, on why such propaganda is being carried out, and on why they are defending what they are defending. The sharp

tip of the arrow should be aimed at this, and the alert people of Iran should be informed of sham praises of or attacks on individuals and their policies by the West's propaganda machinery.

Needless to say, one should boldly confess to mistakes and carefully try to rectify them.

Yazdi Denies Fuladi, Cooper Cases Linked

LD1509101389 Tehran IRNA in English
0955 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 15, IRNA—Tehran's substitute Friday prayers leader Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi today strongly rejected any connection between the release of an Iranian national Koroush Fuladi from British jail and the British spy in Iran, Roger Cooper.

Addressing congregational prayers at Tehran University campus, Ayatollah Yazdi stressed: "Fuladi's release has nothing to do with Roger Cooper's issue."

Korush Fuladi was arrested in Britain in 1980 on charges of boming in London which killed two Iranian counter-revolutionaries. He served a ten-year prison term and returned home last Monday.

"Cooper is a prisoner of the Islamic Republic and is serving his prison term," Ayatollah Yazdi said.

"I personally deny any rumor, article or analysis made in various countries to this effect. There is no connection between these two cases," stressed the Ayatollah.

During long years of imprisonment in British jails, Fuladi has been subjected to severe tortures.

"He (Fuladi) has his own case and Cooper, here in the Islamic Republic, has also his own case according to judicial principles," Ayatollah Yazdi said in his sermon.

Envoy to Paris on Iran-France Financial Dispute

LD1409203189 Tehran IRNA in English
1615 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Paris, Sept. 14, IRNA—The Iranian ambassador to Paris has termed as a "positive gesture" a promise by the French Government to release Anis Naccache, a Lebanese citizen arrested and convicted to life imprisonment in 1980 for attempting to assassinate the last premier of the former regime of Iran Shahpur Bakhtiar.

However, he said, "This is not considered a precondition for rapprochement between the two countries," 'Ali Ahani told IRNA Wednesday.

He reminded that the Paris government had already promised to pardon Naccache provided that Tehran by using its influence in Lebanon would secure the release of French hostages held by Lebanese groups.

He said the French hostages were set free because of Iran's mediation efforts and after Paris promised to release Naccache.

Naccache and four members of his attack squad were arrested following an abortive raid on the residence of Shahpur Bakhtiar on the outskirts of Paris.

He has gone on an indefinite hunger strike since Friday, requesting that the Paris government fulfil its promise and members of his group be moved to his prison.

Asked whether Naccache's release would be on the agenda during a visit to Tehran of French Foreign Ministry Director General Francois Scheer due to start next Monday, he replied "the aim of his visit is to resume talks on settling mutual financial disputes."

France's refusal to repay a one-billion dollar loan it received from Iran in 1974 was for years an obstacle blocking the expansion of ties between the two countries but the differences were eased last year when Paris repaid $630 mn as part of its debts.

In February 1989 when French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas arrived in Tehran the two countries agreed to introduce two plenipotentiary representatives for final settlement of problems between them.

But negotiations between the two countries came to a halt when France and then Iran withdrew their ambassadors in a row over a death order issued by the late leader of the Islamic Revolution, Imam Khomeyni on Salman Rushdie for his blasphemous novel 'The Satanic Verses.'

The Iranian ambassador added that Iran's Foreign Ministry Director General Mahmud Vaezi would represent the Islamic Republic in talks with Scheer.

CSSR Deputy Minister Meets Habibi, Others

LD1409215189 Tehran IRNA in English
1809 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA—Visiting Czech Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Mr. Vacik met Thursday with First Vice President Hasan Habibi here and called for strengthening of ties and cooperation between the two countries in international circles.

Habibi said Iran in conjunction with those countries opposed to colonialism, arrogance and state terrorism could turn the last decade of this century into a decade of international peace and understanding.

He also briefed the Czech official on the obstacles created by Iraq on the way of implementing the U.N. Resolution 598 and reiterated Iran's commitment to enforcing the resolution.

On Wednesday, Vacik held talks with his Iranian counterpart Mahmud Vaezi here where he announced that the Czech foreign minister would pay an official visit to Tehran by the end of the current Christian year.

The Czech deputy foreign minister arrived in Tehran Wednesday. He also held separate talks with First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati and Deputy for International Affairs Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani.

Talks Held With Japan on Petrochemical Project

LD1409204989 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 14, IRNA—Talks were held on Irano-Japan petrochemical project during a recent visit to Japan by a senior official from the Oil Ministry.

A spokesman for National Petrochemical Industries Company announcing the above said Deputy Oil Minister for Petrochemical Affairs Ahmad Rahgozar conferred with managing director of Mitsui firm, the Japanese partner in the petrochemical project in Imam Khomeyni port.

The petrochemical complex was damaged during Iraq-Iran war and abandoned by Japanese side from then on. Some 85 per cent of the project had been accomplished.

The spokesman said postitive advances were made during the talks held in Tokyo and hoped the issue would be finalized in near future.

President Chairs Counternarcotics Meeting

LD1409210389 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The headquarters in charge of the counternarcotics fight convened a meeting this morning chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. In that meeting, the initiatives carried out in connection with combat against narcotics in Iran and the situation in work camps, as well as punishments for drug traffickers, were discussed and reviewed.

The meeting also made the necessary decisions in connection with the allocation of the necessary budget and credits for construction, reconstruction, and the equipping of work camps. In order to speed up the work pertaining to combating narcotics, it was decided that a coordinated framework for the headquarters in charge of the counternarcotics fight should be devised promptly, so that those in charge may be able to wage an all-embracing confrontation against the trafficking of narcotics and the merchants of death.

Majlis on Contact With People, Food Supplies

LD1209204689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] In today's open session of the Islamic Majlis the single urgent project of setting up offices for putting people in touch with the [Majlis] deputies, which had begun to be examined in the previous session, continued to receive attention, and the single clause and six notes of this project were ratified, after amendments, by the deputies. On the basis of this project, in order to facilitate people's contacts with the deputies of the Islamic Majlis and in order to identify the problems of the regions, each deputy can open an office called: The Office for People's contact with the Deputies [daftar-e ertebat-e mardom ba namayandegan], in each of the voting constituencies. Note 6 of this project states: this law can be implemented from the date of its ratification and its regulations will be prepared and passed at most within 1 month, by the Joint Committee of the Public Accountancy Department and the Department of Administrative and Employment Affairs.

In this session the project for securing the ugent purchase of basic agricultural goods was discussed in the presence of the members of the Council of Guardians and was ratified by the Islamic Majlis deputies. On the basis of the single clause of this project, in order to protect the production of the vital agricultural products of the country and to establish a balance in the system of production and prevent surpluses and wastage and losses to farmers, the government is dutybound to guarantee the purchase of basic agricultural products—wheat, rice, barley, corn, beetroot, cotton, cotton seed, tea, potatoes, onions and cereals—and to announce the minimum guaranteed purchase price and to take steps in purchasing these through the relevant units.

Council of Guardians Rejects Majlis Bill

LD1309213789 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] The Council of Guardians today declared unconstitutional the single-urgency plan to establish offices for contact between people and Majlis deputies. The Majlis approved this plan yesterday.

Majlis Deputies' Condemnation of U.S. Viewed

NC1509113089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Signals to Iran on Ties So Much Eyewash"]

[Text] Large numbers of Majlis representatives led by Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mehdi Karrubi condemned vehemently the exhortation by a group of 186 U.S. Congressmen asking the American President to support the hated dissident Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) in Iran. The Majlismen castigated the United States calling them the banner-holders of state terrorism.

To say the least last week's letter by 186 Democratic U.S. Congressmen was ill-conceived and hasty in the extreme. It reflected a blatant interference in the internal affairs of another country for which the United States has acquired notoriety over the years and has not learned its lessons yet. The move showed beyond doubt that the

U.S. backs the MKO terrorist grouplet. The Congressmen even went so far as to suggest that the Islamic regime in Iran should be toppled by every means possible, even through the use of the much vaunted oil embargoes that have been used in the past. The suggestion is of course to apply the strongest possible pressures on Iran to get it to change its revolutionary stances.

In fact there is nothing new in the U.S. move, since it has tried and failed to impose so-called oil embargoes against Iran. The past ten years shows many such examples of tried and failed attempts at supporting anti-revolutionary moves and forces within Iran. And more, such actions also clearly show the close relation that exists between the CIA and the MKO in diversified fields and is something Iranian officials very well know about.

At its face value, the letter of the U.S. Congressmen was apparently compiled without the U.S. Administration did not being in the know. If indeed this is the true position, the in-depth differences of view among U.S. strategists in the political setup is truly glaring.

Given the terroristic nature of the MKO, the backing so strongly urged by this American group speaks volumes for the emptiness of anti-terrorist slogans the U.S. chants with such demagogic insistence. Iran has all the evidence necessary to prove that U.S. Intelligence Services are providing the MKO with whatever they need to pursue their terroristic activities and will certainly make them known to the public when the time is ripe for such revelations.

In a nutshell then, the move in the U.S. verifies the claim of the Iranians that the U.S. is not sincere in its overtures to stamp out existing bottlenecks in ties between the two countries. Having said this, it is only next best said that Iran is possibly quite right in suspecting that the signals it has received thus far from the U.S. on expansion of ties and ending hostilites between Tehran and Washington is nothing but so much eyewash, or that they have been done with motives more sinister than should be taken for granted.

Editorial Says Oman's Mediation Offer Welcome

NC1409121889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 7 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Oman's Offer Welcomed"]

[Text] Hectic diplomatic activities are continuing these days for the resumption of diplomatic ties between the Saudi Regime and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Both countries have friends and some of them are common friends who are hoping that the gulf between Riyadh and Tehran may be briged. One such country is Oman which during the last 10 years maintained a balanced relation with the Islamic Republic despite the fact that it is one of the members of the (Persian) Gulf Coperation Council. Certain members of the (P)GCC adopted a hostile attitude against Iran during the imposed war. They also helped the Iraqi regime in terms of money and political backing.

Now as the active war is terminated these countries from the southern Persian Gulf naturally are trying to review their past relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As far as Iran is concerned it is the open policy of this country and the policy of the Islamic Revolution that cordial relations should be maintained with the neighbors and especially with Muslim countries.

This is the reason that the Iranian officials have welcomed the moves of the friendly countries for patching up relations with neighboring countries.

As far as Saudi Arabia is concerned there are certain issues to be thrashed out before the resumption of diplomatic relations. We all know that the Iranians have been deprived of performing Hajj for the last two years on unreasonable grounds by the Riyadh Regime.

The friendly countries who consider that the Irano-Saudi relations should be resumed should pay due attention towards the crux of the issue. They should try to convince the Riyadh Regime that the Muslims in no way should be deprived from going to the holiest of places in Islam.

We know the importance of the unity and solidarity among not only the Muslim countries but also among the entire Third World, especially at a time when the imperialist forces are joining hands in the name of detente. The real motives of the imperialist forces are still to be cleared.

What now is necessary is for all the Third World countries to join hands so that they can exploit their natural resources as well as manpower for the benefit of the people of their own countries.

Iran, we are sure, will be the first country to welcome any such move for removing all misunderstandings and disputes among the regional countries if these moves are sincere and based on justice.

We hope that Oman will keep this fact in its mind; if it does so then we welcome this move by a friendly country.

Daily Stresses Improving Regional Relations

NC1109175989 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Good Ties With Neighbors Iran's Top Priority"]

[Text] It looks as if the clouds of misunderstandings and minor rifts are lifting and clearing away from the horizon in the Persian Gulf region. Last week, the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council countries in the course of their meeting in the Saudi Arabian port of Jeddah opted for

improved ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, an offer which was promptly and warmly responded to.

Besides, in the aftermath of consequent messages of goodwill, Kuwait has called for cordial and better relations with Iran, while in Belgrade the Kuwaiti state minister for foreign affairs met the Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati and congratulated him on the formation of the new cabinet. All this augurs well for future good neighbrly ties and greater bilateral cooperation at the best of levels. And the latest news brings good news of Iran-Kuwait relations being upgraded at diplomatic level.

Iran has in the past, however, from time to time, often and at frequent intervals kept up calls for better relations and has affirmed constantly and consistently the importance it attaches to such friendly ties with its neighbors. In fact President Hashemi-Rafsanjani on assuming presidential office recently made it a priority in the policy statement of his, asserting the significance he gives to good-neighborly ties with countries of the region.

The policy of ccurse is not something entirely new to Iran and has been an intrinsic part of the policies of the Islamic Revolution. No doubt the course it should have followed was in the main hampered by the outbreak of the war with Iraq in 1980 and the consequent moves by neighbor countries siding with Iraq in its aggression against Iran. Yet Iran, despite the souring of relations, tried all in its power to keep up cordial relations advising these countries each time to keep neutral and not to compromise friendship with the Islamic republic in any way.

Now that the flames of war have been quenched, if not quite put off and extinguished, it is high time to cement these ties with some of our closest neighbors in such a way that they will remain firm and never suffer to be broken again in the future.

It will be agreed by all that it is not in the interest of any country to live in a zone high with tension and to that end all countries in the region and the Persian Gulf will have to re-evaluate their previous policies and chalk out a sound strategy that can form the basis of a possible regional alliance to confront external enemies and avoid quarrels among themselves. Friendship has to be a two-way process and it can only last if there is truth, sincerity and a genuine desire to nourish it at the background, unfailingly and always.

Drug Dealers Arrested, Opium Seized in Esfahan

LD1409210589 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Around 191 kgs of opium and opium residue were confiscated from two big narcotic distributing gangs, which were active throughout the country, by the guards of Esfahan's Islamic Revolution Committees. Also 14 merchants of death were arrested. The confiscated substances which were hidden in a number of cars, were taken to Esfahan by the smugglers at different times.

15 Drug Smuggling Rings Broken in Mashad

LD1309213889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Sep 89

[Text] Our correspondent, Hadi Sarfaraz from Mashhad center has sent us a report about the destruction of 15 narcotics smuggling rings:

[Correspondent] With the destruction of 15 narcotics smuggling rings, the guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee of Khorasan succeeded in arresting 102 merchants of death and seized more than 2 and ½ tonnes of opium from them. The commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee of Khorasan this morning, in an interview with a Central News Unit correspondent, announced this and gave some details of the destruction of these rings:

For some time now, the Islamic Revolution Committee guards, making use of new intelligence techniques, succeeded in infiltrating the organizations of the narcotics smugglers, some of whom were in contact with international rings. In the month of Shahrivar [beginning 23 August] of this year, during two clashes with them they succeeded in seizing more than 2,000 kgs of opium which had been smuggled over the country's eastern borders. He added: The narcotics seized were hidden in two 2-tonne consignments in a (minivan) and a trailer carrying sugar while passing through the town of Qa'en, and they were discovered and confiscated because of the timely action of the town's Islamic Revolution Committee guards. As a result of the arrest of a number of smugglers and the networks which were in contact with them, altogether more than 100 merchants of death were handed over to the Islamic justice organs, and about 400 kgs of other narcotics, including 7 kgs of heroin, were seized.

Referring to the fact that the smashed rings were armed and were engaged in the importation and distribution of narcotics in Khorasan and some other provinces of the country, the Islamic Revolution Committee commander added: 38 vehicles, a number of weapons, a considerable amount of ammunition, and more than 3.39 million rials in cash have been seized from the merchants of death.

Afghan Mujahidin Leader Assassinated in Pakistan

LD1509110189 Tehran IRNA in English 1055 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] Peshawar, Sept. 15, IRNA—An Afghan mujahidin commander was assassinated by a number of unidentified gunmen at his residence Thursday, informed sources said.

Haji Hussein Khayyer [name as received], a member of the National Salvation Front under the leadership of Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, resided in Badabir camp for

migrants, 16 kms from here. The sources said that Khayyer's wife was also assassinated in the asault.

Khayyer is the second Afgjan mujahidin commander assassinated in Peshawar during the past two weeks.

Nepal

More Opposition Arrests in Districts Reported

BK1409160889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1540 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 14 (AFP)—The head of the banned Nepali Congress Party said here Thursday that 1,700 fellow party members and symphatizers had been arrested in the last five days.

Krishna Prasa Bhattarai said the members had been arrested in 25 of the 75 districts in Nepal since the party launched a week-long "peoples' awakening celebration" Saturday to mark the 76th anniversary of the party leader's birth. Mr Bhattarai said 11 student leaders had been arrested Wednesday in Kathmandu and Kabre districts when they were "marching to rural areas to record public grievances."

Four of the student leaders were released in Kathmandu later Wednesday, but the others remained in jail, he said. The Nepalese Home Ministry said however that it arrested 624 people Saturday and had released 432 by Wednesday.

The ministry said the 624 were arrested on charges of "trying to disrupt the security situation" and that "432 were released after necessary investigation."

A ministry source said "the process of releasing the rest of the people is underway after completion of the investigation against them."

A member of the banned party also said the local administration of villages around Kathmandu had not arrested party supporters visiting the area Thursday because of a public holiday. The outlawed Nepali Congress has organized a week of celebrations to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the birth of its late leader Bisweswore Prasad Koirala, who died in 1982.

Meanwhile, the Kathmandu District president of the banned party, Marshal Julum Shakya, issued a press note appealing to the Nepalese people, students, political leaders and members of the party, to join a peace march Friday afternoon in Nepal.

Pakistan

Rajiv Gandhi Interviewed at Belgrade Summit

PM1509100089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 Sep 89 p 4

[Report on interview with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by Zaki Shihab in Belgrade; date unspecified]

[Excerpts] Belgrade, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, news agencies—Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has urged that the Nonaligned Movement's efforts be focused on securing an international economic system that will resolve the problems of both poor and rich states.

This came in a short interview with him conducted in Belgrade by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, in which he emphasized that, despite the end of the cold war atmosphere, international conditions still necessitate the the Nonaligned Movement's existence, especially since the cold war mentality still exist within many circles. [passage omitted]

Answering a question on his government's position on developments in recent efforts to secure a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem, Rajiv Gandhi expressed his appreciation of President 'Arafat's efforts, which he described as huge and courageous and good steps, but added that Israel has not responded to the Palestinian and Arab peace initiatives. The Indian prime minister stressed his personal willingness to do all that President 'Arafat requires of him. [passage omitted]

On ways of resolving the Afghan crisis and the effect of its continuation on Indian-Pakistani relations, Gandhi said: "We in India support a political solution of the Afghan problem, that is, one achieved through dialogue, not violence. Our backing for the present regime will continue, though undoubtedly that crisis is one of the issues on which our views differ with the Pakistani Government's position. But despite that, we are trying to improve relations in many other fields." [passage omitted]

Gandhi Government Termed 'Ad Hoc, Arrogant'

BK1309055989 Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Sep 89 p 5

[Text] Chandigarh, Sept 4 (UNI)—Janata Dal general secretary Maneka Gandhi [sister-in-law of Rajiv Gandhi] today described the Rajiv Gandhi government as "total ad hoc and arrogant" in its attitude towards the people.

Talking to newsmen at a 'meet the press' programme at the Press Club here, she said every policy of the Rajiv Gandhi government reflected either lack of study or concern about the problems of the people.

The present government at the Centre had the lowest record in human rights protection and India had been condemned all over the world on this score, she charged.

Replying to a question about the Punjab problem, she said most of the people in the state felt that the confrontation was between the people and the Government. The state had been run by police which had turned itself into a 'lawless band', she alleged.

She said if the Janata Dal came into power at the Centre, state terrorism would go and the faith of the people would be restored.

Ruling out any dialogue with the terrorist leadership to solve the Punjab tangle if the Janata Dal was voted to power at the Centre, Mrs Maneka Gandhi said the dialogue would be held with all responsible citizens belonging to all communities in the state.

Replying to a question about the possibility of postponement of the Lok Sabha elections, she said it would be "very bad" of the Congress government if the Centre postponed the elections because it would be seen as a further sign of its 'weakness'.

Answering a question about punishing those involved in the November 1984 riots, she said there was evidence that some leaders, who were now in the Union cabinet, had been identified as leading groups of people in the riots and they still continued to enjoy power. Such people should certainly be brought to book and all riot victims rehabilitated.

She demanded setting up of a human rights court to look into the activities of the police in Punjab during the last five years. There were thousands of people who had been victimised in the state during this period, she alleged.

Mrs Gandhi said Union Ministers H.K.L. Bhagat and Jagdish Tytler Congress MP [member of Parliament], Sajjan Kumar and number of Congress councillors of Delhi had been condemned by various human rights organisations for their alleged role in the November riots in the national Capital.

Commenting on the performance of Punjab Governor S.S. Ray she said the people in the state say that in every circumstance he was allegedly behind provoking and working to increase tension in the state. His role in the state was not at all admirable, she opined.

She said Mr Ray was not within his constitutional rights to write to Haryana Chief Minister accusing the latter of inciting the people of his state on the eve of the 'Bharat bundh' [all India strike] day to detain trains and vehicular traffic.

Mrs Maneka Gandhi said that by accusing the Haryana Chief Minister, Mr Ray had increased the gap between the Haryana and Punjab governments. Governors all over the country had become arms of the Prime Minister rather than of the President.

When asked whether the Janata Dal, if it came to power would reopen the Bofors gun deal issue, she said not only the Bofors issue but all major contracts awarded to foreign firms for 'consideration' by the present government would be probed.

Replying to a question about the infighting in the Janata Dal, she said it was a new party in which people had come from different cultures and background. The main reason for the infight was the emphasis on positions. This question could be decided after the Lok Sabha election, she added.

Discussions Continue on Withdrawal, Cease-Fire

BK1409130989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] Discussions are continuing between India and Sri Lanka on the withdrawal of Peacekeeping Force [PKF] and related matters. This was stated by the External Affairs Ministry spokesman in New Delhi today. He was replying to queries from newsmen about the expected joint communique on the subject.

The spokesman declined to comment on any substantive matter likely to figure in the joint communique. However, he clarified about the possibility of an open-ended cease-fire by PKF in the northeast. He said while there is no specific period or deadline for the cease-fire, there are certain conditions which invariably accompany any suspension of offensive military operations. If such conditions are violated or breached, then action would be taken by PKF.

Army Called To Quell Disturbance in Rajasthan

BK1509030089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] In Rajasthan, the Army has been called out to quell the disturbance in Kota town. Eight persons were killed and 60 injured following violent incidents in the town last night. An indefinite curfew has been clamped in some parts of the town. The trouble started when a procession being taken out by a group of people was challenged by another group. A number of shops were also set ablaze. Senior police officials have rushed to Kota to assess the situation.

Extradition Agreement Signed With Pakistan

BK1509082489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] India and Pakistan have worked out modalities to track down and hand over persons wanted in criminal cases in either country. The Central Bureau of Investigation and the Federal Investigation Agency of Pakistan signed an agreement to this effect in New Delhi recently.

Editorial on Pakistan's Political Situation

BK1309061189 Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 Aug 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Ms Bhutto Troubles"]

[Text] The situation has turned difficult for Pakistan Premier Benazir Bhutto. Aside from several simultaneous pressures she has been required to fight off almost since her election, Ms Bhutto is now faced with two developments which must add to her many problems. The first is an eruption of differences with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan over selecting a successor to Admiral Sirohey, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, and the second is her Pakistan People's Party's [PPP] defeat by over 30,000 votes in the Sheikhpura byelection for the Punjab assembly. The opposition Islamic Democratic Alliance, which rules Punjab, has taken the seat. More than this electoral set-back, it is the tussle over the top military post which has serious implications for Ms Bhutto's civilian government. In her capacity as the Defence Minister, Ms Bhutto thinks that it is her job to select a man for the top military post: The President claims it as his prerogative of "discretionary powers" the constitutional amendment pushed through by the Zia regime gives him. The problem emanates from Ms Bhutto's efforts to assert supremacy of the civilian government and hark back to the days of her late father's short-lived democratic regime. The tangle cannot resolve itself quickly because Ms Bhutto's government has a tenuous hold on the power structure. The US unease over Ms Bhutto's moves towards Afghanistan and India too appears to have set off new pressures. US Ambassador Robert Oakley's public pronouncements on the need for Pakistan to be "tough" with India have given a handle to those accusing Ms Bhutto of "going soft" on India. A sizable section of the PPP castigated the Ambassador for his "undiplomatic utterances". Yet, the low key reception Ms Bhutto gave Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in Islamabad in July attests to the existence of deep divisions within her own party over India. Ms Bhutto has a difficult situation on her hands. It is to be seen how she faces up to the domestic and external pressures.

Spokesman on Import of Satellite Equipment

BK1409155689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that India is importing radiation hardened microprocessor devices for the INSAT-2 satellite program from the United States under an agreement approved by the two governments. He said the INSAT-2 satellite program is an indigenous effort and it has been designed to enhance India's capabilities in communications, meteorology, and broadcasting.

The spokesman was referring to a press report carrying an insinuation that India has been involved in a clandestine effort to procure these devices. He said the report is baseless, tendentious, slanted, and uninformed. Such stories only serve the interests of those who have an ulterior motive of maligining India.

Paper on U.S. President's Anti-Drug Strategy

BK1409100589 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 8 Sep 89 p 11

[Editorial: "All-out U.S. War on Drugs"]

[Text] President Bush has kept his word given to the American electorate last year during his Presidential campaign. He has now waged an all-out war on narcotics. In his first TV address to the nation in his seven months in the White House, he proposed a $8 billion national drug strategy to fight narcotics trafficking at home and "beyond our borders...." The four basic components spelt out by the US President are tougher law enforcement to see that drug-sellers are caught, prosecuted and punished; a $2 billion aid programme to three Latin American countries, Colombia, Peru and Bolivia; a stepped-up drug treatment plan to help addicts and a major anti-drug education programme in schools and local communities. Time and again the US President had vowed to take on the drug kingpins both at home and abroad. Last month he lent his moral and material support to Colombian President Barco, who, against heavy odds, enforced a major crackdown on drug warlords. While underground drug leaders unleashed a wave of terror in Colombian towns, the authorities held their ground primarily because President Bush rushed military equipment and anti-drug experts to assist local law enforcement officials.

Mr Bush has assured the Colombian President that on request he would even despatch American troops to fight drug operators. But more than the external menace, President Bush's major problem is internal: to wean away addicts from narcotics and to unearth local cartels which are hand-in-glove with their Latin American counterparts. One reason why the US Government is so keen on drug gang leaders' extradition from their native soil is to force them to spill the beans about their US connection. President Bush is convinced that once the Latin American drug connection is snapped it would be possible to contain the menace from within. But past experience has shown that drug cartels have a way of resurfacing no matter how hard they are hit. The President has warned the Americans that no one among them is out of harm's way. Ironically, the opposition Democratic Party is not impressed by the President's tough measures. Only time will tell how effective the measures are.

Sri Lanka

Possible Agreement on PKF Withdrawal, 20 Killed

BK1409161289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Discussions are continuing between India and Sri Lanka on the withdrawal of the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] and related matters. This was stated by the External Affairs Ministry spokesman in New Delhi today. [passage omitted covered by referent item]

The Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, indicated in Colombo today that India and Sri Lanka are likely to sign the agreement on PKF withdrawal within a day or two.

Meanwhile, there are reports of continued extremist violence in Sri Lanka. Twenty persons, including a television presenter and four security force personnel, were killed since last night. Official sources in Colombo said the body of Miss (Sagarika Gomez), a TV presenter with the government controlled Independent Television Network, was found at a beach at (Mount Lavinia), 16 kilometers south of Colombo. In other incidents seven JVP [Janatha Viumukthi Peramuna] extremists were killed in encounters with security forces in the central Kandy District. Four charred bodies of suspected extremists were also recovered. The extremists killed three police constables in an ambush in central Anuradhapura, while a retired soldier was shot dead at his residence in Matara.

Withdrawal Treaty in 1-2 Days

BK1409164589 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 14 Sep 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan foreign minister and cabinet spokesman, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, has said India and Sri Lanka would sign an agreement on the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] withdrawal and related matters within a day or two. He was briefing newsmen in Colombo after a cabinet meeting. Mr Wijeratne said the agreement will be signed in the Sri Lankan capital between the Indian high commissioner and the Sri lankan foreign secretary.

Answering a question, the Sri Lankan foreign minister said consultations between the two countries are on regarding a few outstanding matters. He said an open-ended cease-fire by the IPKF against Tamil militants would also be announced.

Mr Wijeratnae expressed the hope that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] would abide by its assurances that they would stop violence against all Sri Lankans.

The minister said once the agreement was signed, the question of signing a friendship treaty between the two countries will be taken up. The treaty would be an independent one and not a replacement of the 1987 India-Sri Lankan agreement.

More PKF Soldiers Killed in Bomb Blast

BK1509080289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Sep 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 6 PKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] soldiers were killed and 11 injured in a powerful bomb blast at a place between Monkey Bridge and Palampoddaru near China Bay, about 23 km away from Trincomalee town this morning. According to preliminary reports, the bomb was suspected to be planted by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] militants.

Meanwhile, the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] secretary general, Mr Padmanabha, says unless the use of violence as a method to resolve conflicts is ended, all collective efforts to arrive at a viable solution to the present crisis will not bring the desired results. In a statement released in Trincomalee, he said that dialogue and compromise alone could mitigate the sufferings of the people and help normalize the situation.